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Tuesday,
9th December, 1952

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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

OFFICIAL REPORT

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NEW DELHI

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THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part I—Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Tuesday, 9th December, 1952.

The House met at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

AUTO LAMPS

*1020. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state what was the total production in our country of auto lamps during the year 1952?

(b) What quantity of auto lamps had to be imported during the same period?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) 48,241 nos. from January—September, 1952.

(b) 6,542,765 nos. during the period January—August 1952. Figures for September are not yet available.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know where these factories have been set up for the manufacture of auto bulbs?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: There is now one factory, Pradeep Lamp Works working at Calcutta. There are proposals for setting up five factories, three in Bombay and two in Delhi.

Sardar Hukam Singh: From what countries were these bulbs being imported?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Largely from U.K. and U.S.A.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is it known to the Government that the price of the bulbs from other countries like Czechoslovakia is much lower than in the case of U.K. and U. S. A.?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is possible. I have no information.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Was this item placed under OGL or was it under license all the time?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The licensing policy has been undergoing various changes. During January—June 1951, soft currency licenses were issued to established importers on a quota basis. When there was acute shortage all over the country and auto bulbs were not available, on 7th May, 1951, it was decided to grant licenses freely for soft currency shipments up till 31st December 1951. In July—December 1951 the policy was pursued. In January—June 1952, we had a cut in the quota by 25 per cent. in the half year's imports. In July—December, because of the large stocks again, no licenses were issued.

Actually the hon. member will find that whatever came from the dollar area came prior to the January—June licensing period, and the rest was from the soft currency areas, and people could have imported from any country they liked.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is the Government alive to the difficulties experienced by these importers? When there was acute shortage in the country the import was made free, and there were such large stocks in the ports, that nobody would care to take them?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I quite recognise that these frequent changes in our import policy are causing a lot of discomfort, and we are trying to remedy the situation.

LISTENING SCHOOLS

*1021. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state whether there was any increase in the number of listening schools registered during 1952 as compared to the number registered in 1951?

(b) Have educational broadcasts been extended to all States of the Union by now?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) Yes, Sir; 552 more schools are reported to have installed receivers during the period between Ist January 1952 and 30th September 1952, bringing the total to 2,135 as against 1,583 on 31st December 1951.

(b) Educational broadcasts are being given from the Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Tiruchi Vijayawada, Lucknow, Allahabad, Patna and Trivandrum stations of All India Radio. It is proposed to provide similar programmes from other Stations as and when the existing low power transmitters are replaced by high power ones and more receiver sets are installed in the schools.

Shri Veeraswamy: May I know the number of listening schools in Madras State?

Dr. Keskar: 741.

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: May I know whether the grants to these schools are made on a Statewise policy?

Dr. Keskar: The installation of receivers is the responsibility of the State Governments and not of the Central Government.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether the non-keeping of the receivers by the States is due simply to financial difficulties, or have they any other objections for putting up these?

Dr. Keskar: It is mainly financial. But I might inform my hon. friend that we are impressing on the State Governments the utility and usefulness of putting up more and more receivers in their schools, and we are getting good response from them.

Sardar Hukam Singh: The hon. Minister has stated that more strong transmitters are also to be put up. How long would it take the All India Radio to replace its transmitters with stronger ones?

Dr. Keskar: The replacement of the low power transmitters by higher power transmitters is the main item in the five year development programme of the All India Radio.

Shri Achuthan: What is the average cost of installing a receiver?

Dr. Keskar: That will depend on the type of receiver that the schools install.

TEACHERS, DOCTORS AND CONTRACTORS FOR MALAYA

*1022. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh** (a) Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of Malaya has approached the Government of India for recruiting some teachers, doctors and contractors for service in Malaya?

(b) If so, have these personnel been recruited?

(c) If the reply to part (b) above be in the affirmative, how many persons have so far been sent to Malaya?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Yes, for some teachers only.

(b) Not yet. The Government of India have informed the Malayan Government that they may advertise in leading newspapers in India and call for applications. The Malayan Government propose to send a Senior Officer of the Malayan Education Department to interview the candidates and select them. It has been stipulated that a representative of the Education Ministry of the Government of India should also, be included in the interview Board.

(c) Does not arise.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the number of teachers, which the Government of Malaya had asked the Government of India to recruit, or for whom they wanted facilities to recruit from India?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: 39 is their present requirement.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know for what language these teachers are wanted?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: The instruction is given in English, but the teachers are required for science, history, geography and English.

Shri Veeraswamy: What are the respective scales of pay and conditions of service for the teachers and doctors we send to Malaya?

Shri Anil K. Chanda. It will be on a contract basis for three to five years. The basic salary in Malayan dollars is 660--30--780 p.m., and cost of living allowance at standard current rates would bring it up to $ 790—25—890 for single men, and to $ 950, 990, 1030, 1055, 1080 for married men, and to $ 950. 990, 1030, 1067·5, 1105 for married men or widowers.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the Government of India will take full responsibility for the security of these persons while they stay in Malaya?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: It is our solemn obligation to take all steps to ensure the security of our nationals abroad.

COAL (EXPORTS)

***1023 Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of **Production** be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of coal so far exported from this country during the current financial year;

(b) the total value of these coal exports; and

(c) the countries to which it has been exported?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) and (c). A statement giving the information is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 10.]

(b) Rs. 8,80,00,000. (approximate).

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, the export price of this coal?

Shri K. C. Reddy: At the control price fixed by the Government of India plus other and incidental charges.

Shri Raghavaiah: Are all the demands of the industrial concerns and the tobacco growing peasants who require them met before the coal is exported?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Certainly all the local requirements are met before any coal is exported outside.

Shri Sanganna: What percentage does Orissa coal bears to the total quantity of coal exported outside India?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I am sorry, I cannot say straightway now.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Is it a fact that the tobacco growers of the South have several times complained? What steps have been taken in order to supply them the coal required?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Every possible effort is being made to meet the demands of the tobacco growers. Out of the quantity allotted to them, the major part of it—nearly 84 per cent. of the coal required—can be supplied from the Singaranni Collieries which are near by.

Shri K. Subrahmanyam: Are we importing any coal from abroad?

Shri K. C. Reddy: No.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: It is mentioned in the statement that 2,55,000 tons of coal have been sent to South East Asia. It is also mentioned that it has been sent to Japan, Ceylon, Burma and other countries like Indonesia etc. What does 'South East Asia' indicate?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Some other countries like Hong Kong, Singapore etc.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know, Sir, whether it is the policy of the Government to export coal to belligerent countries?

Shri K. C. Reddy: That question has already been answered on the floor of the House.

Shri Dhusiya: Do we get the same price for exported coal as other countires or is it different? If so, which is the highest and lowest price?

Shri K. C. Reddy: The prices are not really comparative. As I said already, the price is the control price fixed by the Government of India plus freight, other and incidental charges. These will vary.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, whether 'South East Asia' includes Korea also? Is coal exported to Korea?

Shri K. C. Reddy: If the hon. member will look into the statement I have placed on the Table of the House, he will have the answer.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is North-East Asia.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: I mean North Korea.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is further north.

BLAST FURNACE AT SAMBALPUR

***1024. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of **Production** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Aetna Japan Company of Japan was carrying on negotiation with the Government of India for erecting a blast furnace at Sambalpur, Orissa and if so, with what result?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): Negotiations are being conducted amongst others with the Aetna Engineering Company of Japan for the establishment of an Iron and Steel Plant in India. The question of the location of this Plant has not yet been decided. Negotiations are still in progress.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, whether Sambalpur was surveyed for locating this plant?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Some surveys have taken place by experts and others, but it is too early to say as to where exactly this plant will be located.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Do Government propose to send any delegation to Japan for carrying on negotiations.

Shri K. C. Reddy: No, Sir. Not at present.

Shri Jasani: Was Madhya Pradesh selected for this plant?

Shri K. C. Reddy: It was not actually selected. There is a sort of misapprehension. Actually at no time was any place finally selected. It is to be settled later on.

Shri Jasani: How much time will it take?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I cannot say. Every effort will be made to select a site as early as possible.

Shri Bansal: How much more time will Government take to decide as to where and when this plant will be located.

Shri K. C. Reddy: It will depend upon the advice of the technical collaborators we will finally decide in connection with the establishment of this project. After we consult them, we will decide as to where and when the plant will be located.

Shri Bansal: Is it a fact that these negotiations have been going on for the last five or six years?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Yes, they have been going on for some time. It is such a big project that we have got to go into all aspects before taking a final decision.

Shri T. N. Singh: Is it true that the postponement of power production at Hirakud and Sambalpur has affected the siting of such industries at Sambalpur?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I do not think so, Sir—so far as I am aware.

Shri Sanganna: May I know, Sir, at how many places iron ore has been discovered in the State of Orissa?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Does it arise out of this?

Shri C. R. Narasimhan: Apart from Orissa and C. Madhya Pradesh, are there any other claimants for the location of this plant in their States?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Yes. There are several claimants, Sir, including the one from which the hon. member comes.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Is Government aware that this Atena Company is a subsidiary of the Atena Standard Engineering Company of Pittsburg, USA, and is it a fact that the steel delegation which came—the Japanese delegation—was led by an American capitalist by the name of Swelter?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I am afraid I cannot give all the details. I can say this much that the Atena Engineering Co. Japan have their American Associates.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I also know if among the conditions sought to be imposed upon us is one which says that the major part of the production of the new concern to be set up in Sambalpur, Orissa, will be sold at cheaper than world rates to the Atena Company of America?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I am sorry I cannot go into the details of this question. The whole thing is still in the stage of negotiations. It is too early to commit oneself to anything.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: Sir, in connection with the location of this mill, what was the recommendation of the consultants—Coppers Ltd., I think, of New York?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I cannot say. So far as this plant is concerned, there has been no decision as regards where it may be located. The information that the hon. member wants, as to what was the opinion of the particular company, I am not in a position to give it at present.

Shri Natesan: May I know, Sir, what will be the capital involved in starting this Plant?

Shri K. C. Reddy: It all depends upon the capacity of the plant.

Shri Natesan: What is the capital involved in this particular case?

Shri K. C. Reddy: In this particular case we have in view. I can say the capital will be round about 80 crores of rupees for the iron and steel plant.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Can Government give this assurance, that the products of this plant will not be sold to anybody at cheaper than the world price?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I can give this assurance that the interests of the country and the interests of our project will always be kept in mind.

Shri V. P. Nayar: That is no answer to my question...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This is not the occasion when in the form of questions assurances can be asked for from Government. Only facts can be elicited.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I put a question. The hon. member did not divulge the information. He said it is only at the negotiation stage. I wanted an assurance whether India's interests will be taken into consideration.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. members cannot ask for assurances on the floor of the House during this question hour. They can only elicit information.

Shri Nambiar: If at all they can, let them give.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: They won't give. This is not the proper occasion for it.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, how many sites have been examined and whether any new sites are to be examined yet?

Shri K. C. Reddy: One in Bihar and one in Madhya Pradesh and one in Orissa.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

***1025. Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are having diplomatic relations with 'Israel';

(b) whether any Indians have relinquished citizenship of India to acquire the citizenship of Israel;

(c) whether any Indians have left India to have their permanent residence in Israel and if so, how many; and

(d) whether any Indians, who have gone to Israel for permanent residence have come back, and if so, how many?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) India has recognized the Government of Israel but thus far neither country has a diplomatic mission in the other.

(b) None.

(c) It is estimated that 2,367 Jews have emigrated from India to Israel since 1948. It is not known how many of them were of Indian nationality.

(d) Yes, about 332 Indians returned to India from Israel during the period 15th May, 1948, to 31st August, 1952.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know, Sir, whether all those persons who went to Israel for permanent residence there, relinquished the Indian citizenship when they went there?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: It is not necessary according to the laws of Israel. Any Jew who migrates into that country automatically acquires the nationality of that country.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know, Sir, whether for rehabilitating those who returned from Israel, the Government had to spend any amount?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Not to our knowledge, Sir.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know, Sir, whether the Government have sent any students to Israel to watch and study the modern agricultural developments in that country?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: How does that question arise out of the parent question, Sir? If I have notice, certainly I can enquire.

BICYCLES (IMPORT POLICY)

***1026. Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state the reason for the delay in the announcement of 'bicycle import policy' by Government for the latter half of the current year?

(b) What is the total annual demand of bicycles in India and what is the indigenous supply of the same?

(c) What is the present stock of bicycles and what was the total import of bicycles in the first half of this year?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) The hon. Member's attention is invited to para. 2 of the introduction to the Red Book of Import Trade Control Policy for the period July—December, 1952, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

(b) The total annual demand is estimated to be nearly 500,000 cycles. The indigenous production was 114,275 cycles during 1951 and 131,106 cycles this year upto September.

(c) Government have no information about the present stock position. During the first half of this year

1,38,216 complete bicycles valued at Rs. 1,42,45,338/- were imported.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know whether there is any progressive increase in demand for bicycles in the country and if that is correct, what is the percentage of increase per year?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, these are mere estimates. The Tariff Commission, from time to time, estimated the demand from three lakhs to three and half lakhs and four lakhs. The Development Wing attached to the Commerce and Industry Ministry is also estimating it from time to time and it has now estimated it to be about five lakhs. Therefore, Sir, it is merely a matter of estimate and there is no method of assessing the progressive increase in demand with any degree of accuracy.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know, Sir, for the balance of our demand, wherefrom it is being imported?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, as I have said, there is a certain amount of manufacture in this country. That manufacture is progressively increasing. We expect that by the end of this year, three big plants will be almost in full production; and there are several small plants as well. The balance is made up by import from soft currency areas.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know, Sir, whether there is any time fixed before the period concerned, when the announcement of the policy must be made?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The hon. Member will perhaps know that in the policy announcement which was made sometime last month, it was indicated to the consumers that no licences would be issued for the current half year. The policy announcement for the next half year will have to be made. I cannot tell the hon. Member whether I can make the policy announcement in this matter within a stated time or not. It all depends upon the stocks position.

Shri Dabhi: May I know, Sir, whether indigenous bicycles compare favourably with the imported bicycles in the matter of price and quality?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: In the matter of price, I understand that they compare favourably and in the matter of quality I think they are equally good.

Shri G. P. Sinha: What is the total production of Hindustan cycles in India?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: During the year 1952, up to September, it was 3506, and the figures indicate a progressive increase.

Shri Basappa: Is it a fact that Members of Parliament are using cycles?

Shri G. P. Sinha: May I know the increase in production of the Hindustan bicycles?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am not able to say, Sir.

Shri V. P. Nayar: The hon. Minister stated that the indigenous cycles compare favourably with imported cycles in price and quality. May I know, Sir, whether the Commerce Ministry has suggested to the Works, Housing and Supply Ministry that, in view of these observations, that Ministry should confine the purchase of cycles to the indigenous cycles?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is said there is under-production in our country.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Production is not adequate for the needs of the people. There is no point in asking any particular Ministry to confine its purchases to indigenous production.

PEPPER

***1027. Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state :

(a) the value and quantity of pepper exported from India in each of the years from 1947 to 1951 ;

(b) the names of countries to which pepper is exported;

(c) how far the recommendations of the Export Promotion Committee urging the growers, dealers and shippers of pepper to attempt to reduce prices to a more reasonable level have been accepted and implemented ; and

(d) how the Indonesian supply is competing with the Indian supply?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 11.]

(b) U.S.A., U.K., U.S.S.R., Italy, Canada and Western Germany.

(c) The need for Government interference in the matter has not so far arisen because the prices of pepper have more or less remained at a reasonable level.

(d) The quantity exported by Indonesia has so far been small and does not appear to have affected exports from India.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, the reason for the considerable increase in the prices?

Shri Karmarkar: The reason is that foreign purchasers are giving us more.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact, Sir, that hoarding and speculation is also one of the factors?

Shri Karmarkar: No, Sir, as far as we know.

Shri S. C. Samanta: From the statement I find that from 1947—51, the increase in production has been 25,000 cwts. but the prices have gone up more than six times. May I know, Sir, how the production in this country did not increase in spite of the six times increase of prices of the commodity?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Sir, pepper has to be grown and I think the individual proclivities of the people who grow has also to be considered in this matter.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether there is any restriction in the exports of pepper to soft currency areas?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It was suggested, Sir, at one time, but it has not been pursued.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, whether any complaints have come from U.S.A. about the quality of the pepper imported?

Shri Karmarkar: Sir, in one case this year, there was a complaint from the other end like that.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know the total amount Government have received as export duty from pepper during these years?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I enquire, Sir, whether the Government has got any organisation for propaganda in foreign countries to popularise our spices?

Shri Karmarkar: We have our usual methods of propaganda. We have Diplomatic channels, and trade representatives there.

Shri Kelappan: Sir, is the Government doing any research to improve the quality of pepper?

Shri Karmarkar: There have been proposals, and, as I said before in answer to another question, there is an idea of setting up fumigation plants at the various centres. But, since the amount involved is small we wanted the private industry to come into that matter.

Shri Damodara Menon: Is it not a fact, Sir, that our pepper is superior in quality to the Indonesian pepper?

Shri Karmarkar: I should love to think so.

Shri Damodara Menon: Has this Export Promotion Committee recommended any reduction of export duty?

Shri Karmarkar: Sir, I think the Committee asked for watching of the prices and to arrest any rise. In fact, it is advantageous to us and to the growers if higher prices could be obtained.

Shri Thanu Pillai: Sir, may I know the increase in prices which the consumer has to pay in India?

Shri Karmarkar: There has been some small rise also in the internal price of pepper. For instance, the price prevailing in September 1949, which is the earliest period for which I have got these prices, was Rs. 444-13-4 and the price in July, which is the latest figure I have for 1952, was Rs. 732-3-2. That is about export prices. The average wholesale prices of pepper at Madras in 1950 as against 1949 are Rs. 464/- as against Rs. 449-13-5.

Shri Matthen: Is the Government inclined to reconsider the very heavy export duty on pepper in order to promote the export trade?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is not a question. It is a suggestion.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether the Export Promotion Committee has made any recommendations as regards improvement in the quality of pepper exported from India?

Shri Karmarkar: Yes, Sir. They have said that quality control should be instituted.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether Government have taken any steps in that matter?

Shri Karmarkar: I think that when the interests concerned take steps for proper fumigation, the necessary quality will be insured.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Question No. 1028, Sir.

Shri N. P. Sinha: May I request you to take up my question No. 1058 also along with this question? Both are allied.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is the hon. Minister willing to answer both of them together?

Shri Hathi: Yes, Sir.

TILAIYA DAM

*1028. **Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tilaiya Dam of the Damodar Valley Project is now ready for impounding water;

(b) if so, what is the quantity which could be impounded;

(c) whether any use of the water can be made this year; and

(d) if so, in what areas and for what crops?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes, Sir; the Tilaiya Dam started impounding water on the 3rd July, 1952.

(b) About 121,000 acre-feet of water was impounded till October 1952. About three times this quantity of water will be regularly impounded from next year.

(c) Yes Sir, the water will be used:

(i) for irrigation and

(ii) for the development of power by running the two hydro-electric units which are being installed.

(d) The water can irrigate about 20,000 acres of land in West Bengal for *rabi* crops through the existing Damodar Canal System this year.

AREAS SUBMERGED BY TILAIYA DAM

*1058. **Shri N. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state:

(a) how many persons or families have been displaced on account of the submerging of areas in Tilaiya Dam zone;

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to rehabilitate them;

(c) how many acres of cultivable lands of such persons have gone under water; and

(d) whether they have been compensated, and if so, in what way?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) About 300 families have so far been displaced.

(b) Houses have been built for those who wanted them. Others have been given cash compensation.

(c) The total cultivable area which will be finally submerged is 7902 acres. No separate survey is reported to have been made by the D.V.C. to determine the number of houses and area of lands which have so far been submerged.

(d) Yes, Sir. Land has been reclaimed for those who wanted land in exchange. Others desiring cash compensation are being paid in cash.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know whether any new canal system has been constructed for the use of this water, or whether the old canals themselves will be used?

Shri Hathi: From the Tilaiya Dam the water will go through the Anderson weir to the Damodar canal that already exists. No new canals are built for this dam.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know whether the water supply will be perennial or seasonal?

Shri Hathi: It will not be perennial.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know which crops will receive the water—the *kharif* crop or the *rabi* crop or the autumn crop?

Shri Hathi: The idea of having this storage dam is that specially during the month of October when there is not sufficient water, and the existing canals do not get sufficient water, this storage dam will be utilised for giving additional water to the existing canals. In dry months also, it will help the *kharif* crop. Otherwise, it will give irrigational facilities for the *rabi* crop.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know whether this dam has been completed according to the schedule?

Shri Hathi: It has been completed, Sir—a few months later, of course, than the schedule.

Shri B. K. Das: What has been the total cost for the construction of this dam?

Shri Hathi: The total cost of the whole project—*i.e.* the dam as well as the power supply—is Rs. 3 crores.

Shri B. K Das: May I know what are the reasons for this dam being included as one of the points of reference to the committee of enquiry set up to go into the D.V.C. project?

Shri Hathi: The reason is the excess over the estimated cost?

Shri B. K. Das: May I know how much has been the excess amount spent over the estimated cost?

Shri Hathi: The original estimate was Rs. 1·95 crores, but the cost has at present come to rupees three crores.

Shri N. P. Sinha: In regard to question 1058, may I know how many houses have actually been occupied by the displaced persons from out of the number of houses said to have been constructed?

Shri Hathi: I require notice for giving that information about the number of houses that have been actually occupied.

Shri N. P. Sinha: May I know, that there was an assurance given by the Government that displaced persons will be given house for house and land for land, and if yes, may I enquire whether that assurance has been carried out?

Shri Hathi: In fact, so far as this particular dam is concerned, those who wanted houses have been given houses, and those who wanted land have been given land.

Shri G. P. Sinha: May I know if at all there is any person who does not want a house in the place of a house?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What is the meaning of this cross-examination? He has clearly said that those who wanted houses have been given houses. Others may build their own houses.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: I did not follow what the hon. Minister said in regard to the canals for irrigation purposes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He said that no new canals have been dug and that the old canals are being used.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: As far as the houses are concerned, may I know whether the houses were built according to the taste of the people who had to live there, or according to the taste of some whimsical engineer?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Otherwise, how would they go and occupy the houses as they did? Cannot the hon. Member put a question without the word "whimsical" being added to it?

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: I love that word

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Why should he have spoken it?

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: That is my whim, Sir. I want to know whether the houses were built according to the taste of the people who were expected to live in them?

Shri Hathi: The houses were built according to the plinth area and the standard type designs, and not according to the taste of any individual occupants.

CULTURAL DELEGATIONS

*1029. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state whether any reports have been submitted to Government by the Cultural Delegations sent, in the last three years, to different countries and if so, whether any constructive suggestions or recommendations had been made in any of these Reports for taking any action so as to improve our relations and strengthen our friendship with the countries concerned?

(b) What is the cost of each of these missions or delegations to the Government of India during each of these years, and the budgeted amount on the same account during the current financial year (1952-53)?

(c) Has any action been taken by Government to implement any of these suggestions or recommendations made in any of these missions or delegations' Reports?

(d) Are there any rules regarding the despatch of any such mission or delegation to a foreign country, including the selection of personnel, presents to be made and the brief or instructions given to such delegations?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (c). Various types of delegations have gone abroad during the last three years. Some of these had been unofficial, others official. Some of the official ones consisted of artists accompanying Art Exhibitions or giving dance recitals. Reports are always received when important missions are sent. These reports are treated as confidential and are not released for publication. Any recommendations made in the report are carefully considered and, where possible, given effect to.

(b) A list of delegations, both official and non-official, is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* **Appendix VI, annexure No. 12.**] This shows the approximate cost, if any, incurred by

Goverment in the case of each delegation. No specific budget provision exists for such cultural delegations, but a consolidated amount of rupees two lakhs has been provided for cultural activities abroad during 1952-53.

(d) There are no hard and fast rules for such delegations. Selection of personnel, presents, if any, to be made, and the instructions given, vary from country to country and are related to the purposes for which the visits are undertaken.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Are there any regulations—and if that be not possible any conventions to be conformed to in respect of the relations between the delegations that are sent from here to various countries, and the permanent representatives of our delegations in the countries to which such delegations go?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Our permanent representatives naturally give every help and assistance to these delegations.

Shrimati A. Kale: Do Government take any care to see that some kind of selection is made with a view to ensuring that the members of the delegation have a basic knowledge of Indian culture?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Every possible precaution is taken in selecting the personnel of these delegations.

Shri P .T. Chacko: May I know whether Shri A. K. Gopalan who is now in Moscow and who is broadcasting anti-Indian speeches was sent there on any official or non-official delegation?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: No, Sir. We did not send him out.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether the hon. Member can substantiate his statement that Shri A. K. Gopalan is making anti-Indian broadcasts? It is an accusation against another hon. Member of this House, and I want to know whether the hon. Member can substantiate his statement and whether the Chair will protect an absent hon. Member from such attacks?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That will be a matter for later consideration.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know, Sir.

Shri Nambiar: Please come out with your substantiation first......

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. Shall I allow a duel here on the floor of the House?

Sardar Hukam Singh: In the list supplied in answer to part (b) of the question, item No. 11 mentions of an Art Exhibition sent to China, Japan and Australia and item 12 refers to an Art Exhibition sent to U.S.A. Were any exhibits sent for display or were the exhibits sent were for sale?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: They were exhibitions only for exhibiting Indian pictures abroad and not for sale.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Against item No. 15 in the list an expenditure of Rs. 1,33,000 is shown to have been incurred. May I know the break-up of the amount? May I know whether the whole expenditure was incurred in connection with journeys or were there any other items of expenditure?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I am very sorry, I have not got the break-up. If the hon. Member gives me notice, I shall supply the information.

Shri Damodara Menon: May I know Sir, whether the Cultural Delegation to China did make any constructive suggestions in their report?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: They submitted their report which has been considered by Government.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know, Sir, whether the delegation of dancers sent abroad consisted of all types of dancers, like Kathakali, Bharata Natyam, Pahari, or only those persons who offered themselves were sent?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Are we to go into all those details—into the different kinds of dances?

Shri Namdhari: Has the Government considered the desirability of sending a Delegation to Pakistan to promote goodwill?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This does not arise out of this question.

Shri K. K. Basu: May we know whether in selecting the artists expert advice is taken or the selection is made by Government officials?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Experts are certainly consulted.

Shri K. Subrahmanyam: Are the members of the delegation free to speak and write as they like in the countries which they visit?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): There is no ban on them, but there are certain considerations which we expect them to observe.

Shri Nambiar: In view of the fact that certain members belonging to the Cultural Delegation which returned from its visit to China are speaking and writing against friendly relations between India and China what steps do Government propose to take?

Several Hon. Members: Question.

Shri Nambiar: I can quote instances.

ASSAM TEA

***1030. Shri Beli Ram Das:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state what were the prices of various grades of Assam tea sold in Calcutta market in the years 1951 and 1952?

(b) What were the internal sale prices of various grades of Assam tea in the State of Assam in the same period?

(c) Is it a fact that the consumers of Assam tea have to pay a higher price for it in Assam?

(d) Do Government propose to enquire into the matter and take necessary steps?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 13.]

(b) In the absence of any auction facilities, only a very small proportion of poor quality teas are sold at the gardens in Assam in loose form for local consumption at varying prices; but no statistics of such sales are available.

(c) Government are not aware if consumers of Assam have to pay higher prices for local teas.

(d) The required information is being called for with a view to seeing what steps Government can appropriately take.

Shri Beli Ram Das: In view of the fact that the world price of tea is going down gradually, will it not be desirable to lower down the price of tea in India also?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have no doubt, Sir, that it is desirable. The only trouble about it is how to achieve it. We have not got any price control over tea. Possibly we might have to think of it in future, if the disparity between local producers' price and the selling price to Indian consumers is great.

Shri Beli Ram Das: Is the Government aware of the fact that highly adulterated tea is being sold in Assam?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have not got the information.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know, Sir, what is the gap between the cost of production and the sale price of Assam tea now?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The trouble about it is this. In the statement that we have furnished, we have given four categories of estates and five categories of tea. Which particular item on which the hon. member wants information, I am unable to find out.

GERM WARFARE IN KOREA

***1031. Dr. Rama Rao:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state whether the report of the International Scientific Commission which investigated into the charges of germ-warfare in Korea, has been brought to the notice of the Government of India?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): A copy of the report has been recently received by the Government of India. Copies were distributed to all members of the United Nations, by the U.N. Secretariat, at the request of the Soviet Delegation to whom a copy of the report had been sent by the Secretariat of the 'World Peace Council'.

Dr. Rama Rao: May I know, Sir, what are the conclusions of the International Scientific Commission?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Broadly speaking, the conclusions of this report are that the germ warfare was used in certain areas.

Dr. Rama Rao: May I know, Sir, if the Government of India have ratified the Geneva Protocol against germ warfare?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: For the moment I cannot speak with precision, but we have always been in favour of ratification.

Shri Nambiar: In view of the fact that Government have ratified the Geneva protocol and in view of the fact that Government have acceded that germ warfare was used in Korea, will the Government of India raise the issue in the United Nations? What steps are taken in that respect?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Hon. member's second presumption is not correct.

Shri Raghavaiah: Is it a fact that one of the Indian scientists invited to serve on this Commission, was unable to go and sit on the Commission, on account of the pressure brought to bear on him by the Government of India?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know what the hon. member is referring to.

Shri Raghavaiah: I would like to submit that Col. Sokhey who was invited and who wanted to serve on this Commission could not work on this Commission because of some influence brought to bear upon him by the Government of India.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There is no question of pressure. Anybody could have gone. I do not exactly remember whether and how Col. Sokhey referred the matter to us. He may have asked for our advice and we may have given it.

Shri Nambiar: What advice was given, Sir?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That advice is confidential.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: In view of the appreciation by the Prime Minister of the gravity of the conclusions reached by the International Scientific Commission, in spite of the fact that we ourselves have not been in a position to verify those conclusions one way or the other, is it in the contemplation of Government to proceed further in this matter, because it is something which concerns the peace of the world and the way in which civilisation is to progress?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is a suggestion for action.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: He may answer, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How am I to allow all suggestions?

Shri Raghavaiah: In view of the fact that we have accepted the Geneva protocol and the use of germ warfare in Korea is against the convention, may I know whether the Government of India are prepared to withdraw the Medical Mission that we have sent to South Korea?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: May I, Sir, point out that in this matter there is no certainty, in spite of the fact that certain eminent scientists may say something. It is not for me to deny what they say or affirm. But there are two parties to this matter. One denies it absolutely; the other affirms it. All the enquiries that have taken place—however eminent the gentlemen concerned might be—were from that point of view one-sided, appointed by one party. I mean in such a very serious matter it is desirable to have an enquiry which is believed in or which is sponsored by both the parties or all the parties concerned. That is the difficulty. One cannot in a very grave matter of this kind proceed on balances of probabilities but on definite certainties.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know if there was any proposal from the United Nations to investigate into this matter and what happened afterwards?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I believe various proposals have been made by some countries—I am not quite sure of the United Nations as such—but by members of the United Nations. Always the difficulty has been that the proposal made by one side is considered partial by the other and not accepted.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the Government of India have any information from our own men who are there, and may I know what they say regarding the germ warfare?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Hon. Members will permit me to say from such little experience as I gathered many years ago that it is almost a practical impossibility for anybody to say definitely after a period of time. One may presume things, but to say with dead certainty after some time is very very difficult; and certainly our Ambassador and others are in no position to say this or that.

PARLIAMENTARY WING OF GOVERNMENT PRESS, NEW DELHI

***1032. Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state whether the Parliamentary wing of the New Delhi Press is functioning to cater to the normal and urgent needs of the Parliament of India?

(b) Have sufficient accommodation and staff been provided for the Wing?

(c) Is the staff working overtime during the session period of Parliament allowed any extra facilities and if so, what are they?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) and (b) Yes.

(c) Yes, when required. Payment for overtime work is allowed at twice the ordinary rate of wages.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know how many new machines have been indented for this Parliamentary Wing and how many of them are lino, mono or printing machines?

Sardar Swaran Singh: The Wing is to be equipped with machines of various kinds, the more important of which are seven lino types, two mono composing and casting units, and eight printing machines. Four linos, two monos, as well as six out of the eight printing machines have already been installed in the Wing. The remaining machines and certain other equipment are being obtained by the Deputy Controller of Printing and Stationery, Calcutta.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether this Parliamentary Wing is meant exclusively for parliamentary requirements or whether some work of other Ministries is also at times done here.

Sardar Swaran Singh: This Parliamentary Wing has started working only in September last and it is rather premature to answer that question. If the capacity of this Wing is large enough to finish the work connected with Parliament, then the spare capacity will certainly be used for some other work. And if this Wing is unable to cope with the printing work connected with Parliament, then the other capacity in the press will be utilised for that purpose.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Who is the officer in charge of this Parliamentary Wing, and may I know whether he belongs to the Parliament Secretariat?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I did not take much interest in the individual, but if my friend is very much interested I will find it out for him.

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: What is the total annual expenditure on this Parliamentary Wing?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I have not got separate figures for this.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know why the proceedings of this House are not yet printed? The latest proceedings available, I think, are for June or July. What is the reason for this tremendous delay?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I do not subscribe to the first part as to whether they have not been printed. But I am prepared to look into this matter and to expedite.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Does it mean that they have been printed and not distributed?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He will look into the matter.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether stationery for Parliament Members are printed in this Wing and, if so, whether complaints have been received from Members that the paper used is very thick and of a rough quality and they have suggested that thin and fine papers may be used?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I have not received any complaint ever since this Parliamentary Wing has started functioning.

ELECTRIC POWER FROM HIRAKUD PROJECT

***1033. Shri Krishna Chandra:** Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Estimates Committee in their fifth report for 1951-52 under para. 73, has observed that the electric power from the Hirakud Project in Orissa would be produced at enormous rate;

(b) whether Goverament have got this matter examined and if so. with what result;

(c) whether any steps are being taken simultaneously with the construction of the Project to develop industries in the area with a view to utilise this power; and

(d) when the power from the project would be available?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes. Sir. A load survey of the areas to be served by the Hirakud Dam Project has been conducted and tentative proposals have been made to utilise the power available for industrial and other purposes. The report is under examination by the Government of Orissa.

(c) Necessary steps in this direction are being taken by the State Government.

(d) In 1955-56.

Shri Krishna Chandra: May I know the rate at which power is estimated to be produced?

Shri Hathi: The total power will be 85,000 k.w. in the first instance.

Shri Krishna Chandra: I want to know the estimated rate at which the power is expected to be produced.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The cost of production.

Shri Hathi: The cost of production would be 3·32 pies per kilowatt.

Shri Krishna Chandra: May I know the tentative proposals for the utilisation of the power?

Shri Hathi: The tentative proposals are for the present about 25,000 k.w. will be utilised by the establishment of an aluminium factory near Sambalpur; then establishment of a ferro-manganese processing factory which is expected to consume about 10,000 k.w.; then machanisation of mines near about Noamundi and Rairangpur and Rajgangpur, absorbing about 7,000 k.w.; cotton mills, collieries and paper mills and other small-scale industries round about Cuttack, Talcher and Jarsuguda about 15,000 k.w.

Shri Sanganna: May I know the basis on which the cost of production is calculated?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The basis on which all costs of production are calculated. It is the same basis.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know if the industries which will consume a large amount of the power are planned so well that they will be erected and will consume the power in 1954-55 or thereabouts when the power will be available?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He wants to know whether the industries will be put up sufficiently early so as to utilise all the power that is produced by 1954-55.

Shri Hathi: That is the intention, Sir.

Shri Natesan: May I know whether the cost per kilo watt given is so many pies or pice?

Shri Hathi: Pies.

Shri Natesan: May I know at what rate they are going to supply the power to the industries?

Shri Hathi: That will be decided later on.

INDIAN TEA PLANTATION LABOURERS IN PAKISTAN

***1034. Shri L. N. Mishra:** (a) Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a large number of tea plantation labourers, hailing from Bihar, Chhota Nagpore and Madras, have been prevented by steel-helmeted Pakistani troops from leaving Pakistan on the eve of introduction of the passport system?

(b) What is the approximate number of such labourers?

(c) What steps have been taken to facilitate their return to their homes?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) to (c). So far as we know this is not true. The facts are otherwise. These labourers have been residents of the Tea Estates for a long time, some for two or three generations. Recently, East Pakistan authorities asked them to prove their domicile for inclusion in the electoral rolls. This caused the labourers uneasiness about their national status, which increased as the date for introducing the passport system approached. About 300 are reported to have migrated from East Pakistan. It is not correct that Pakistan troops were employed to stop their migration.

Shri L. N. Mishra: Have Government any idea about the number of Indian labourers who are still in Pakistan?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: As I said here, they have been living in Pakistan for the last two or three generations.

Shri L. N. Mishra: Do Government propose to prohibit migration of Indian labourers to Pakistan?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: No such migration is taking place, Sir.

STATEMENT REGARDING CORRECTIONS IN ANSWER TO STARRED QUESTION NO. 410 ON CONFECTIONARIES.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in regard to my answer to Shri Nambiar's Starred Question No. 410 on the 18th November, 1952, I would like to make the following corrections:—(*interruption*).

The answer to part (c) should read, "The authorised capital of the company is Rs. 20 lakhs of which 64.94 per cent. is fully paid up". The answer to part (d) should read "We understand that the percentage reserved for Indian Government is 35.06".

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

BOKARO THERMAL STATION

***1035. Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendation of the Estimates Committee regarding appointment of a body of experts to investigate as to whether full value of money spent on Bokaro Thermal Station has been obtained, has been considered; and

(b) if so, what decision has been taken?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The revised estimate of the Bokaro Thermal Station Project is being examined by the Technical Representatives of the three participating Governments and will be further considered by the Govt. of India on receipt of the report of the Technical Committee.

TRANSPORT OF COAL TO PAKISTAN

*1036. **Shri N. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of **Production** be pleased to state:

(a) whether shortage of wagons has affected transport of coal to Pakistan; and

(b) if so, what alternative arrangements have been made by Pakistan to transport coal from India to its own territory?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) Yes, to some extent, due to general wagon shortage, which has affected transport of coal not only to Pakistan but to Indian consumers and also to other foreign countries, besides Pakistan.

(b) Arrangements for transport of Coal to Pakistan have always been made by India and not by Pakistan. But Pakistan have been maintaining with the Indian Railways a credit balance of about 1500 of their Railway wagons to facilitate the transport.

LAND OCCUPIED BY PAKISTAN FORCES IN WEST PAKISTAN

*1037. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will **the Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) how much of Indian land is now in the occupation of Pakistan Forces in West Pakistan;

(b) since when it has been occupied;

(c) what steps have been taken to regain that; and

(d) whether at any time Indian Forces have occupied any strip of land in West Pakistan?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Two areas in Ferozepur district and one in Amritsar district are at present in Pakistani occupation. Their total area is between 10 and 11 square miles.

(b) The first two areas were occupied on the 19th February 1951 and the 26th March 1952. The third, in Amritsar district, was occupied on the 12th September 1952.

(c) The Pakistan Government were asked to withdraw their armed forces from these areas in our territory but they claimed that these areas had been in their possession since Partition. The Financial Commissioners of East and West Punjab also met to decide the question of possession, but no agreement has so far been reached.

(d) No Pakistani territory has been forcibly occupied by Indian forces.

INDIAN TEA (EXPORT)

*1038. **Shri Balmiki:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the countries to which Indian tea was exported in the year 1951-52;

(b) how far the demand for Indian tea in those countries is on the increase; and

(c) what amount of money was earned by export of Indian tea in 1951-52?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 14.]

(b) The demand of these countries for tea varies from year to year. Indian tea has generally been able to maintain its position in the principle markets. A total of 425.5 million lbs. of Indian tea was exported in 1951-52.

(c) The value of tea exported during 1951-52 was Rs. 93·3 crores.

छपे कपड़े का निर्यात

*१०३९. **श्री बाल्मीकी** : (क) क्या वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि भारत में छपे सूती तथा रेशमी कपड़े के कौन-कौन से प्रकार इस पत्री वर्ष में १५ अक्तूबर, १९५२ तक विदेशों को निर्यात किये गये और किन-किन देशों को ?

(ख) विदेशों में भारतीय छपे कपड़े की खपत कैसी है ?

(ग) हमारे विदेशस्थ वाणिज्यदूतालय इस माल के विक्रय में कितनी सहायता कर रहे हैं ?

(घ) भारत द्वारा इस माल के निर्यात से कुल कितना विदेशी विनिमय अर्जित किया गया ?

(ङ) कपड़ा छपाई के प्रशिक्षण की सुविधायें देने के लिये सरकार क्या पग उठा रही है ?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) It is not possible to enumerate the varieties of printed cloth exported to various countries as variety-wise statistics are not maintained. However, substantial quantities of Farukhabad prints and cloth printed in Bombay State were recently exported to U.K., U.S.A., Canada and other countries. Sarees, Dress pieces, Scarves, Handkerchiefs etc. made of printed silk were exported to Burma, Ceylon, Straits Settlements, Federated Malaya States, Afghanistan, Pakistan etc.

(b) We are exporting a fair amount of printed cloth to foreign countries.

(c) Samples of such goods are displayed at the offices of the Trade Commissioners and at important fairs and exhibitions in foreign countries from time to time and our Trade Missions abroad are rendering all assistance in the marketing of these goods.

(d) Foreign exchange earned by export of printed, coloured or dyed cotton fabrics during 1951-52 is Rs. 13 crores 37 lakhs. No separate statistics are maintained for printed silk piecegoods. The foreign exchange earned by way of export of all silk piecegoods during 1951-52 was rupees 21 lakhs.

(e) No special steps have been taken by the Government of India but Government of West Bengal are running two institutions for imparting training in all aspects of silk and cotton weaving, dyeing and printing. These are the—

(1) Bengal Textile Institute,

(2) Berhampore Textile Institute.

COMPLAINT AGAINST DEPUTY CHIEF CONTROLLER OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

***1040. Shri Nambiar:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government have received a report of investigation from the Special Police Establishment of Madras in the complaint against the Madras Deputy Chief Controller of Imports and Exports that he has been indulging in favouritism to certain importers and exporters and that he was partial; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A departmental enquiry was conducted by a senior officer and as a result Government came to the conclusion that the charges of favouritism in the grant of import and export licences were without foundation.

EXPENDITURE ON COMMUNITY PROJECTS

***1041. Shri Chinaria:** Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state:

(a) what amount will be spent on a single community project; and

(b) what part of it will go to the salaries and office expenses of the Advisers, Officers and staff and what on development programmes, construction works, training and education, subsidies and loans?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) and (b). Attention is invited to pages 34—36 of the pamphlet "Community Projects—A Draft Outline".

HANDLOOM CLOTH AND MILL CLOTH

***1042. Shri A. C. Guha:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state whether Government have any statistics as regards the production and cost of handloom cloth as compared with mill production and if so, what are those?

(b) What proportion of Indian demand for textiles of different varieties can be met by handloom?

(c) How does the price of handloom products compare with that of mill productions?

(d) Can any particular items be definitely and wholly allotted to handloom production?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) No statistics are being maintained regarding the production and cost of handloom cloth.

(b) This will depend upon factors like the demand for such handloom cloth, and the purchasing power of the consumer. Government are not in a position to furnish a precise answer.

(c) The price of handloom cloth is usually higher.

(d) This question along with allied matters is now under enquiry by a Committee recently set up by the Government.

TROUBLES IN KENYA

***1043. Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the troubles now going on in Kenya and of the police and military actions taken by the U.K. Government in connection with the troubles; and

(b) whether Government have examined the position there from the point of the safety and security of the Indian inhabitants?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Yes.

(b) The Government are fully alive to the situation and their responsibility towards Indian nationals in Kenya. They do not think that any action on their part is called for at present.

HINDUSTAN MOTORS LIMITED

***1044. Shri Nanadas:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Messrs. Hindustan Motors Ltd., Calcutta has stopped assembly of cars;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same; and

(c) whether now it is proposed to manufacture diesel engines at this Plant?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Government understand that the factory is now working.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, in addition to the manufacture of automobiles this factory has scheme for the manufacture of diesel engines.

TEA EXPORTS

***1045. Shri Nanadas:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of Indian tea exports during 1947-48, 1948-49, 1949-50, 1950-51 and the countries to which such export went;

(b) whether there has been a fall in tea exports recently;

(c) the internal and export prices of tea;

(d) whether there has been a fall in price since the beginning of this year and if so, to what extent; and

(e) the reason for the fall in exports and also in prices?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). I would refer the hon. Member to the answers furnished in reply to parts (b) and (c) of the Starred Question No. 304 answered at the meeting of the House of the People on the 13th November, 1952.

(c) At the Calcutta auctions held on 10th and 11th November, 1952, the price obtained per lb. was:—

Export—Rs. 1-3-6.

Internal—Rs. 0-10-2.

(d) Yes. The price of export tea at the Calcutta auctions on the 7th January 1952 was Rs. 1-10-1 as compared to the price of Rs. 1-3-6 on the 10th November, 1952 while that of internal tea was Rs. 1-3-4 on the 8th January 1952 as compared to the price of Rs. 0-10-2 on the 11th November, 1952.

(e) The reasons for the fall in exports and in tea prices have already been given in reply to part (b) of unstarred question No. 187 answered at the meeting of the House of the People on the 21st November, 1952.

PROHIBITION

***1046. Shri Gidwani:** (a) Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a speech delivered by the Chief Minister of Bombay in Surat and published in the Press on 26th October 1952 stating that any Committee appointed by the Government of India on the recommendation of the Planning Commission will only suggest better methods of implementing prohibition?

(b) Will the Inquiry Committee proposed to be appointed by the Government review the entire prohibition policy in the light of experience gained so far or merely suggest better methods of implementing prohibition as stated by the Chief Minister of Bombay?

(c) When will the Committee of Inquiry be appointed and what will be its terms of reference?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) to (c). The suggestion that a study of the experience gained concerning the working of prohibition should be made has been under the consideration of the Planning Commission. No conclusion has yet been reached regarding the manner in which the study should be organised or the terms of reference.

FACTORY FOR MANUFACTURE OF TYPEWRITERS

***1047. Shri Nanadas:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government was negotiating with an Indian firm for setting up a factory for the manufacture of typewriters in India and these arrangements had been finalised; and

(b) the reasons which led Government to change its mind and give preference to the American firm?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

DEPUTATION OF NAGA NATIONAL COUNCIL

***1048. Shri Rishang Keishing:** (a) Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister during his visit to Mao received a deputation of the Naga National Council?

(b) Was a memorandum presented to him by the deputationists on behalf of the Naga National Council?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

GOVERNMENT SHOWROOMS

***1049. Shri Telkikar:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are no Government showrooms in India; and

(b) the countries where the Government of India have showrooms?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, Sir, as far as Government of India are concerned.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 15.]

ADULT AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

***1050. Shri Telkikar:** Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Films Division of the Ministry has any schemes for educating adults and for giving technical education to masses and students; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what are those schemes?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to set up three Film Units for production of educational films in 16 mm. Copies of the films will be made available at reasonable rates to State Governments who have their Social Education activities and to Film Libraries. Copies will also be made available to other organisations interested in purchasing them.

MAJOR IRRIGATION PROJECTS (ESTIMATE)

***1051. Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state what was the original estimate for the four major irrigation projects of Bhakra-Nangal, Harike, Damodar Valley and Hirakud, undertaken by the Central Government?

(b) What is the amount so far spent on them?

(c) Is there an additional provision of Rs. 50/- crores for these projects?

(d) Why has it become necessary to provide such a large additional sum?

(e) Is it the final additional provision or is there yet more to be spent on them in the second five-year period?

(f) If so, do Government propose to give an approximate idea of the additional sum that might be required for the second five-year period?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) The amount originally provided in the Draft Outline Plan was Rs. 284.27 crores. The original estimates totalled Rs. 249.31 crores for the four major multi-purpose projects of Bhakra-Nangal, Harike, Damodar Valley and Hirakud.

(b) A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 16.]

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) This additional provision is required for the above projects on account of increased cost of construction due to devaluation, rise in the cost of machinery imported, rise in wages of labour and also extension in the scope of the projects.

(e) The expenditure to be incurred in the second five-year period is also included in this estimate.

(f) Does not arise.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR MANIPUR

***1052. Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during his recent visit to Manipur he received demands and memoranda from all political parties with the exception of the State Congress Party for immediate grant of Legislative Assembly to Manipur;

(b) whether political parties other than the State Congress Party expressed their united opinion against the proposed setting up of the Council of Advisers through their memoranda and in their interviews with the Prime Minister;

(c) whether the State Congress has demanded the immediate setting up of the Council of Advisers consisting of only Congressmen; and

(d) whether the Prime Minister has promised a Legislative Assembly to the people of Manipur in the very near future without setting up the Council of Advisers?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) to (c). I received a number of memoranda when I was at Manipur from various organisations, some important, others not particularly well known. The requests made in these memoranda were usually for the grant of autonomy in the shape of a Legislative Assembly. In some, emphasis was laid on the setting up immediately of a council of advisers and it was further recommended that this should be homogeneous to facilitate work.

(d) I made no promise to this effect, in fact I had said something to the contrary. I said that it was clear that Manipur, like other parts of India, should have autonomy, but this was not a mere matter of decree or legislation. The ground had to be prepared for it and I thought that it would be better to start with the council of advisers.

The Minister of States has recently visited Manipur to consider the situation there for himself.

CIVIL LAW

***1053. Shri Telkikar:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any agreement or treaty between India and any foreign country as regards any civil law in 1950-51: and

(b) if so, the treaty or the agreement reached?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Yes.

(b) An agreement between India and Czechoslovakia was entered into in 1950 regarding disposal of estates of Indian nationals dying intestate in Czechoslovakia and *vice versa*.

CHIEF SECRETARIES' CONFERENCE

***1054. Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was recently a conference of Chief Secretaries of Assam, West Bengal and East Bengal at Shillong; and

(b) if so—(i) what were the subjects discussed; and (ii) what were the agreements or results achieved there?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Yes, on the 6th, 7th and 8th November, 1952.

(b) (i) and (ii). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 17.]

COLLAPSE OF GOVERNMENT STRUCTURES

***1055. Shri Jangde:** Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) how many accidents happened, of collapse, during and after their construction of Government structures (buildings, bridges etc.) constructed by C.P.W.D., since 1940;

(b) as a result of the accidents referred to in part (a) above, how many casualties occurred and out of them how many proved fatal;

(c) what compensation Government had to pay for fatal casualties; and

(d) what are the main causes of collapse of the structures constructed by C.P.W.D.?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) So far as I have been able to collect the information the number of occasions on which structures collapsed, wholly or partly, is eight.

(b) 34, out of which 28 proved fatal.

(c) The contractors concerned paid such compensation as was admissible under the Workmen's Compensation Act. The Central Public Works Department paid nothing.

(d) The main factors which caused the collapse were:—

(1) Heavy storm or rain,

(2) Slipping of earth during excavation,

(3) Absence of strength in temporary structures to withstand alterations, and

(4) Disintegration or weakening of reinforcements by efflux of time.

INDRAPRASTHA ESTATE

***1056. Shri K. G. Deshmukh:** Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of India have sanctioned Rs. 11,59,000 for the development of land in the area known as "Indraprastha Estate" on the Delhi-Mathura road in New Delhi;

(b) if so, what is the nature of the proposed development; and

(c) how much acreage of land is proposed to be taken under this scheme?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement, showing the works, that are being carried out, is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 18.]

(c) 55 acres.

INDIANS IN MALAYA

***1057. Shri B. N. Roy:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate number of the Indian citizens living at present in Malaya including Singapore;

(b) whether there is any restriction against purchase of immovable property by them; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, whether Government have made any representations in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) 6,50,000 as estimated on 30th June this year.

(b) There is no restriction in Singapore, Penang, Province Wellesley and Malacca. In the nine States in Malaya, however, there are areas reserved for Malays, in which non-Malays are precluded by law from purchasing any property.

(c) As the restriction applies equally to all non-Malays, the Government of India have not considered it necessary to intervene in this matter.

KONAR DAM

***1059. Shri N. P. Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state what was the scheduled date for completion of the Konar Dam of the D.V.C.?

(b) Have any material changes been made in the original plan and execution of works?

(c) When is the work likely to be completed?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) The Konar Dam is scheduled to be completed by June 1953.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Konar was originally designed as an all-earth dam; but subsequently on the recommendation of the Board of Consultants of the Damodar Valley Corporation the design has been changed to an earth dam with a concrete gravity spillway in the river channel.

(c) The work is expected to be completed by June 1953 as originally scheduled.

FACILITIES GIVEN TO A CONTRACTOR AT HIRAKUD

***1060. Shri R. N. S. Deo:** Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state:

(a) whether all machines, transport vehicles, supervision personnel and other facilities are supplied by the Government in respect of the contract work entrusted to Messrs. Jogendra Singh and Company at Hirakud;

(b) why the works so entrusted to the above firm are not departmentally executed; and

(c) whether the facilities given to Messrs. Jogendra Singh are given to any other contractors?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) According to the terms of the contract machines and transport vehicles for carriage of rubble from quarry to crushing plant are to be supplied to the contractor M/s Jogendra Singh & Co. free of hire charges. The cost of running and maintenance of machinery is borne by the contractor. No supervisory personnel is supplied by the Government nor are any supervision charges being incurred.

(b) Tenders were invited for the work. As the rate quoted by the firm was found to be lowest and most economical, the work was entrusted to them and not taken up for execution departmentally.

(c) Does not arise as M/s Joginder Singh are the only quarry contractors on the project.

CENTRAL TEA BOARD

***1062. Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state the present constitution and personnel of the Central Tea Board?

(b) What is the total amount of fund which they administer?

(c) What is the control of the Central Government over this Board as regards its administration?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) About Rs. 85 lakhs annually.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 19.]

SALT ORGANISATION AND GOVERNMENT FACTORIES

***1064. Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of **Production** be pleased to state whether the Departmental Committee appointed to examine the set-up of the Salt Organisation and the work of the Government Factories has submitted its report?

(b) If so, what are its chief recommendations?

(c) If not, how long is it likely to take?

(d) Have Government finalised their decision regarding the recommendation of the Estimates Committee in regard to the abolition of the licensing system and if not, when are they likely to do so?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) Not yet.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Report is likely to be submitted soon.

(d) Government hope to come to a final decision shortly. Meanwhile the Hon'ble Member may be interested to know that both the Salt Experts Committee and the Salt Advisory Committee have recommended continuation of the licensing system.

REHABILITATION IN CACHAR

***1065. Shri K. P. Tripathi:** (a) Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state how many displaced persons have entered the district of Cachar to date?

(b) How many have been rehabilitated on land and how many otherwise, and how many still remain to be rehabilitated?

(c) How many were rehabilitated on tea gardens through the India Tea Association and at what cost?

(d) What has been the total expenditure incurred by the Central Government up to date?

(e) How many still remain to be rehabilitated?

(f) Has the Central Government expressed a desire that the Government of Assam should take over the rehabilitation work in Cachar?

(g) Have the Assam Government asked for an enquiry into the extent of rehabilitation done up to date before it takes over?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) According to the All India census of March, 1951, the number of displaced persons residing in the district was 93,349.

(b) and (e). Attention is invited to the reply given by me to part (d) of Starred Question No. 1904 by Shri S. C. Deb on the 21st July, 1952.

(c) 2,100 families;

Rs. 21 lakhs approximately.

(d) Rs. 1,41,34,954.

(f) and (g). The matter is under correspondence with the Assam Government.

PROPAGANDA FOR INDIAN TEA

***1066. Dr. Rama Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state what steps have been taken by Government to carry on propaganda for Indian Tea abroad?

(b) If so, in what countries?

(c) Has any organisation been set up for the purpose and if so, what?

(d) Have Government explored the possibility of selling our tea to the Soviet Union and East European countries either for cash or on barter system?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) to (c). I may refer to the statement made in reply to part (a) of the Starred Question 158 answered at the meeting of the House of the People on the 10th November, 1952.

(d) Tea has appeared in the past as an item of export in barter agreements with the Soviet Union. Exports of tea are freely permitted to all East European countries.

IMPORTED SILK (PRICES AND DISTRIBUTION)

***1067. Shri Madiah Gowda:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state whether any action has been taken in regard to the Tariff Board's recommendation that powers should be taken under the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act to regulate the prices and distribution of imported silk?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): The Tariff Board recommended that this question should be examined by Government and after careful consideration it was decided that such action was not necessary.

Sale of Government Publications

*1068. **Shri N. L. Joshi:** (a) Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state whether the Government of India publications, supplied to the Members of Parliament, are made available to the public by sale?

(b) If so, how and if not, why not?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Yes.

(b) The publications can be obtained from:—

(i) Government of India Book Depots at New Delhi and Calcutta;

(ii) Government selling agencies and recognized private agents throughout the country;

(iii) Railway Bookstalls;

(iv) Recognized selling Agents and Indian Missions abroad; and

(v) Government of India Publications Branch or the Publication Division, direct.

Government of India's Representative in Persian Gulf

*1069. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether we have a representative of the Government of India in the Persian Gulf areas; and

(b) if so, whether such representative has submitted a report to Government on his tour of the oil field region with a view to a study of the condition of Indian Nationals there?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). There is no representative of the Government of India in the Persian Gulf. A senior officer of the Indian Legation, Baghdad, has, however, been paying periodical visits to the Persian Gulf since 1950, to look after the interests of Indians there and has submitted reports from time to time.

The last visit to Kuwait and Bahrain was paid by the Indian Charge d' Affaires in Baghdad in May 1952.

Certain grievances of the Indian employees in the oil companies were brought to our notice. Steps were taken thereon and a certain revision was made in the standard agreement for the conditions of service of Indian employees of the oil companies. The agreement was primarily a business contract between private firms in a foreign country and its employees.

Indian Muslims held up by Passport Authorities in West Bengal

*1070. **Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** (a) Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state whether the issue of passports to a large number of Indian citizens belonging to the Muslim community in West Bengal but who are now in the service of the East Pakistan Government, either by option in 1947 or otherwise, have been held up by passport issuing authorities in West Bengal?

(b) Have the Government of India issued any specific instructions to passport authorities in West Bengal in this regard?

(c) Have Government made any inquiries whether the families of these persons live permanently in India and whether they have any permanent family establishments and landed properties in India and West Bengal?

(d) Is it a fact that many of these persons are enrolled as electors in the voters' list in this country for State Assembly and Parliamentary elections and participated in the last general elections?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a), (c) and (d). A report has been called for from the Government of West Bengal. As soon as it is received the relevant information will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) No. All claims to the citizenship of India have to be decided in accordance with Articles 5 to 10 of the Constitution of India.

Calcutta Jute Dealers' Association

*1071. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that none but Europeans are permitted to be members of the Calcutta Jute Dealers' Association?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): The name of the Association has since been changed to the Calcutta Jute Brokers' and Dealers' Association and Government understand that Indians are not excluded from being members of this Association.

PRINTING TECHNOLOGY

***1072. Shri B. N. Kureel:** (a) Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state whether there is any Central Government Institute to impart instructions in Printing Technology?

(b) Is it a fact that the Controller of Printing and Stationery considers the following qualification as essential for recruitment to the supervisory technical posts in the Government of India Presses:

> "Certificate or Diploma in Printing and allied trade of recognized Printing School/College in U.K./U.S.A./Europe or from technical institution in India granting equivalent diploma or certificate as qualified apprentice from Government of India Press"?

(c) Do Government propose to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing the academic and technical qualifications of the Supervisory Staff employed in the Government of India Presses and the Office of the Controller of Printing and Stationery?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Training is imparted by the Government of India Presses at Calcutta and New Delhi to a limited number of apprentices.

(b) Yes, Sir, for direct recruits to the grades of Overseers and Assistant Managers (Technical) in the Government of India Presses.

(c) It would hardly be appropriate, in my view, to expend labour and time in the preparation of such a statement. I shall however gladly consider what action may be feasible, if the hon. Member would indicate what he would like to be gone into on the basis of such a statement.

ALUMINIUM MANUFACTURING PLANT IN MADHYA PRADESH

***1073. Shrimati Sucheta Kirpalani:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the Madhya Pradesh Government purchased a plant for an aluminium manufacturing unit to be located in Katni?

(b) Is it a fact that subsequent to the purchase it was found that sufficient reserves of bauxite did not occur in Katni?

(c) Is it also a fact that the plant purchased was of an out-moded type?

(d) How much money was spent on the venture and what has happened to this plant?

(e) Was the expenditure incurred by the Madhya Pradesh Government or by the Government of India?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No,, Sir.

(d) Rs. 104·90 lakhs including interest charges upto September, 1952. The power plant has been lying in storage at Champa and the Madhya Pradesh Government propose to instal it at Ballarshah for providing additional generating capacity in the State Government's Electricity Grid Scheme.

(e) By the Madhya Pradesh Government.

ELECTIONS IN CHANDERNAGORE

***1074. Shri Tushar Chatterjea:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of India have sent instructions to Chandernagore Administrative Authority to prepare a voters' list for general election;

(b) if so, what is this election meant for; and

(c) whether it is the intention of the Government of India to replace the nominated Advisory Council of Chandernagore by an elected Council as it was before?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) No such instructions have been issued. The question of the future administration of Chandernagore is under consideration.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

GLASS INDUSTRY USING FURNACE OIL

***1075. Dr. Amin:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the units of the glass industry using furnace oil as fuel are not able to compete with other units of this industry using coal as fuel in view of the abnormal increase in the prices of furnace oil from 19th January, 1952;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what relief do Government propose to give to the glass industry using furnace oil: and

(c) if no relief is to be given, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). It is true there was an increase in the price of furnace oil from 19th January 1952; but it would not be correct to say that because of this the glass industry units using furnace oil were not able to compete with other units of this industry using coal.

With effect from 1st December, 1952, the price of furnace oil has been reduced by Rs. 43 to Rs. 46 per ton.

(c) Does not arise.

FURNACE OIL

***1076. Dr. Amin:** Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Messrs. Caltex (India) Ltd. are in a position to meet our country's full requirements of furnace oil from their Bahrein Refinery; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, why furnace oil is allowed to be imported from distant sources?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Buragohain): (a) No, Sir, not to my knowledge.

(b) Does not arise.

CEMENT FACTORY AT NEEMUCH

***1077. Shri U. M. Trivedi:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state what steps the Central Government have taken for the establishment of a Cement Factory at Neemuch?

(b) What help the Central Government are prepared to render for the establishment of such a factory at Neemuch?

(c) What data Government have made available for prospective industrialists and where such data is available?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). There was a proposal to start a cement factory at Neemuch in 1949. As the cement production capacity available for this area was more than sufficient, an additional cement factory in this area was not considered necessary. The position still remains the same.

(c) Requests for data are complied with to the extent possible.

PASSPORTS TO PAKISTAN

***1078. Shri N. L. Joshi:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of passports issued by the Indian Government to persons visiting East and West Pakistan after the introduction of the passport system; and

(b) the total number of Pakistan residents who visited this country during the same period?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) 5,500 till the 31st October, 1952.

(b) The Government of India granted relaxations to border residents till the 31st October 1952, and to certain transport workers till the 31st December 1952. It is not possible to say how many Pakistan nationals took advantage of this. Apart from them, 2,712 visas for India were granted till the 31st October 1952, but it cannot be said how many of them actually visited India.

LAND TO M.PS. FOR BUILDING PURPOSES

***1079. Shri N. L. Joshi:** (a) Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state whether there is or was any proposal for consideration before Government to allot vacant sites of land for building purposes to the M.Ps. at New Delhi?

(b) If so, what are the decisions of Government on the same?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

SALT MANUFACTURERS IN ORISSA

***1080. Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of **Production** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of salt manufacturers in the State of Orissa;

(b) whether licences have been granted to manufacture salt; and

(c) whether any agreements have been entered into by the manufacturers with the Central Government?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) 35 licensed manufacturers and about 400 to 500 small scale unlicensed manufacturers.

(b) Yes, except in the case of small scale manufacturers, who work areas under 10 acres each and in whose case grant of licences is not necessary.

(c) Yes, but only with manufacturers who produce salt on Central Government lands.

REPORTS OF INDIAN TRADE COMMISSIONS

***1081. Shri Muniswamy:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Trade Commissions abroad send their reports weekly, fortnightly or monthly;

(b) the time taken by them for the preparation of such reports;

(c) the time taken by the Ministry for announcing them to the public; and

(d) whether any steps are contemplated to shorten the period of preparation of the reports and to publish them quickly?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) to (d). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 20.]

FACT FINDING COMMITTEE FOR COLONIES IN WEST BENGAL

***1082. Prof. D. C. Sharma:** (a) Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state whether Government have appointed any fact finding Committee to make survey and assessment of the conditions in relief and rehabilitation colonies in West Bengal?

(b) If so, who are its members?

(c) What is the scope of its enquiry?

(d) When will it submit its report?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Yes.

(b) (1) Shri K. P. Mathrani, I.C.S., Joint Secretary, to the Government of India, Ministry of Rehabilitation, New Delhi.

(2) Shri N. Rai Chowdhury I.C.S., Additional Secretary, Refugee Relief and Rehabilitation Department, Government of West Bengal.

(3) Shri Subrata Sen of Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta.

(c) To make a survey and assessment of the conditions in Relief Camps and Rehabilitation Colonies, particularly in relation to housing, gainful employment, vocational and technical training and various other rehabilitation measures undertaken by Government.

(d) By 31st January, 1953.

DETENTION OF INDIAN PASSENGERS IN DURBAN

***1083. Prof. D. C. Sharma:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news which appeared in the press, relating to the detention of the Indian passengers who arrived by a ship in Durban;

(b) whether Government have made enquiries about the correctness of this news; and

(c) what are the actual facts?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Enquiries made by our High Commission in South Africa reveal that the Health authorities in the Union felt concerned about the number of tubercular Indians who entered South Africa. They, thereupon, decided to screen fresh arrivals; including by those Indians who arrived at Durban by the S. S. Karanja on the 29th October 1952. The whole process took about a couple of hours. The passengers were then allowed to go.

MICA (PRODUCTION AND EXPORT)

***1084. Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the official export figures of mica exceed the actual production figures;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, the reasons for the same and the amount lost by Government as royalty; and

(c) the duty, if any, imposed on mica export?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The difference can mainly be ascribed to: (i) export of stolen mica not appearing in the production returns, (ii) export of mica recovered from dumps, and (iii) export of mica by small concerns who do not figure in production returns. Information regarding the loss of royalty on this account is not available.

(c) No export duty is levied on mica.

EAST BENGAL DISPLACED PERSONS

***1085. Shri N. B. Chowdhury:** (a) Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state the total number of East Bengal evacuees rehabilitated by Government in West Bengal and in other States of the Indian Union, State-wise, up-to-date?

(b) How many of these have built up their own houses?

(c) How many are living in Government or Government requisitioned houses?

(d) What is the number of persons now living in station platforms, open sheds, etc.?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

PRODUCTION OF IRON ORE ETC.

431. **Shri Nanadas:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the production of Iron ore, Manganese ore, Chromite, Ilmenite, Bauxite, Copper and Mica during the years 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950 and 1951; and

(b) the exports separately to U.K., U.S.A., and other countries during the years 1946 to 1951 of Iron Ore, Manganese Ore, Chromite, Ilmenite, Bauxite, Copper and Mica?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 21.]

DYE-STUFFS

432. **Shri Nanadas:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of firms who have been permitted to start the manufacture of Dye-stuffs in India since 1947;

(b) the names of the Indian and American firms who have entered into a partnership to float a concern for the manufacture of Dye-stuffs and the share of each in the capital;

(c) what dye-stuffs are proposed to be manufactured in India; and

(d) which of the essential raw materials needed for the manufacture of dye-stuffs are available in India and which are required to be imported?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Only one.

(b) M/s. Atul Products Limited, Bulsar.

M/s. American Cynamid Company, New York.

The issued capital is Rs. 1 crore and the American firm is understood to have taken up shares of the value of Rs. 10 lakhs.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 22.]

(d) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 22.]

CLOTH PURCHASED BY GOVERNMENT

433. **Shri Madiah Gowda:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state the quantity and the value of (i) Khadi (ii) hand-loom cloth and (iii) foreign cloth purchased by Government for the years 1950-51 and 1951-52?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): A statement showing the value of purchases, made is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 23.]

In view of different units adopted for different varieties of cloth statistics by quantity are not maintained.

IMPORT LICENCES FOR GLASS-WARE

434. **Mulla Abdullabhai:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state the number of import licences for glass-ware granted during the year 1951 and January to June 1952 and the names of the countries from which it was to be imported?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 24.]

ARECANUT (IMPORT)

435. **Shri Thimmaiah:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state what is the quantity of Arecanut annually imported from foreign countries?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): Attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given by me to part (a) of Unstarred Question No. 101 by Shri Achuthan answered on the 13th November 1952, in this House.

TEXTILES (PRODUCTION)

436. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state what was the total production of textiles in Indian mills during the years 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951 and 1952?

(b) What quantity is proposed to be exported this year?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 25.]

(b) About 700 million yards of cloth are likely to be exported this year.

INSURANCE POLICIES OF DISPLACED PERSONS RECEIVED FROM PAKISTAN

437. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any insurance policies of displaced Government servants financed from their General Provident Funds have been received from Pakistan; and

(b) whether they have been delivered to the persons concerned?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Yes. 330 Insurance policies have been received.

(b) 273 Policies have been delivered to the persons concerned; steps are being taken to deliver the remaining policies.

RE-ENTRY OF INDIANS INTO AUSTRALIA

438. **Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Australia have imposed several restrictions on the re-entry into Australia of Indians who have left that country; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in the matter?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). There has been no change in the policy of the Government of Australia in recent years and no case has been reported so far of an Indian being refused re-entry to Australia after he has left that country. There are no set regulations governing the re-entry into Australia of Indians who have left that country. The Commonwealth Government usually raise no objection to the re-entry into Australia of Indians who have left that country, provided the applicant can furnish proof of his long residence in Australia and has not come to adverse notice.

ACCUMULATION OF COAL

439. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of **Production** be pleased to state what is the amount of pit-head stocks of coal accumulated this year and how does it compare with pit-head stocks in the years 1947, 1950 and 1951?

(b) How does the supply of wagons at present compare with the supply of wagons in the years 1947, 1950 and 1951?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) The pit-head stocks at the end of September, 1947, 1950, 1951 and 1952 were:

1947	...	2,064.906 tons
1950	...	2,083,603 "
1951	...	2,597,027 "
1952	..	3,349,365 "

(b) The daily average wagon loadings from Bengal/Bihar fields during the above periods were:

1947	...	2,640 wagons
1950	...	2,848 "
1951	...	3,019 "
1952 (for first 10 months)		3,136 "

Average loadings for the other Coalfields are not easily available, but they are roughly another 650 wagons.

PLASTIC INDUSTRY

440. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state the number of factories with the total number of workers working in 1948 in the plastic industry and the number of factories and workers engaged today in the same industry?

(b) What are the raw materials necessary for this industry and from what countries are they obtained?

(c) What is the encouragement offered to this industry in India?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a)—

Year	Number of factories	Number of workers	
1948	About 40	8,000	(approx.).
1952	About 78	12,000	(approx.).

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 26.]

TRADE TREATIES

441. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state with what countries any Trade Treaties have been signed by the Government of India, during the five years ending 15th of August, 1952?

(b) Which of these Trade Treaties are in regard to specific commodity or commodities and which of these are General Trade Agreements affecting all articles of import or export from or to any such country?

(c) How many of such Trade Treaties are in the nature of Barter Agreements for the exchange of Commodities against commodities, and how many of them require the Balance of Trade as between the treaty-making countries to be settled by the transfer of Bullion (gold or silver) or in other ways?

(d) Are there any of these treaties which require any degree of preference to be shown, in the matter of Customs Duties charged on import or export of given commodities from or to the treaty-making country, as against, or contradistinguished from, any other country?

(e) If so, what is the degree of such preference, and what are the countries towards which such preference is shown, as well as the reasons for such preference?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 27.]

(c). With the exception of the short-term agreement concluded with Pakistan in April 1950, none of the trade treaties mentioned in the above statement are in the nature of a Barter Agreement. As regards settlement of trade balances, none of the treaties or agreements in question require transfer of bullion. Such balances are generally settled in sterling or rupees.

(d) and (e). No, except in the case of Pakistan as provided in the June 1949 Agreement with that country on Rebate of Central Excises, a copy of which will be found in the Library of the House.

SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION TO HIMALAYAS

442. Shri Raghavaiah: (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether an expedition of scientists recently toured the Himalayas?

(b) By whom was the expedition organised, who were the members thereof and what was its purpose?

(c) Which parts of the Himalayan region did they cover?

(d) What help did Government render the expedition?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) The latest expedition to the Himalayas is the Swiss Expedition which has not yet returned.

(b) The expedition has been organized by the Swiss Foundation for Alpine Research. It consists of 14 Swiss Nationals and its purpose is to climb the Everest and to collect scientific information.

(c) Nepal and the region of the Everest.

(d) Exemption from payment of Customs duties was granted in respect of the equipment imported by the expedition, subject to the condition that it was re-exported within a specified period.

EXPORT OF TEXTILES

443. Shri Nanadas: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity, value and varieties of exports of Indian textiles during 1947-48, 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1950-51;

(b) the countries which imported our textiles and the value of such exports to each country;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is at present no quota restrictions operating on the exports of cloth from India; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, the reasons which led the Government to remove export restrictions?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 28.]

(c) Yes.

(d) The reasons are:—

(i) the easy supply position of cloth in the country.

(ii) the need for maintaining export markets and earning foreign exchange.

VERIFICATION OF CLAIMS

444. Shri Gidwani: Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that from 1st of September 1952 to the 20th October 1952, not a single claim sheet has been verified by about 125 Claims Officers; and

(b) whether many Claims Officers wrote to the Chief Claims Commissioner that they and their staff were sitting idle as no work was allotted to them after 31st August 1952?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b). About 12,400 property sheets were verified from 1st September, 1952 to 20th October, 1952, by 110 Claims Officers. Since the bulk of the verification work had been finished by 31st August, 1952, greater emphasis was laid on attestation and rationalisation of decided claims. Upto 23rd November, 1952, 1,68,203 claims were attested and rationalised.

TENDERS FOR WHEEL LATHES

445. Shri Gidwani: (a) Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state whether it is a fact that tenders No. SW 1/17787-C/11 for two wheel lathes were publicly invited by the Director General of Supplies and Disposals, New Delhi?

(b) What is the value of these equipments?

(c) Is it a fact the said tenders were publicly opened at the appointed date on the 22nd September, 1952?

(d) Is it a fact that after the opening of the tenders the date for receiving more tenders was extended?

(e) Why has time been extended after opening of the tenders and in how many cases such procedure, without rejecting all tenders, has been adopted?

(f) Is it a fact that some foreign firms were interested to make new offers?

(g) How many more tenders were received as a result of the extension date?

(h) What is the policy laid down after opening of the public tenders?

(i) Is it the policy of the Director General of Supplies and Disposals, to permit the tenderers to change their rates after they are made public?

(j) What instructions do Government propose to issue to observe the sanctity of the tenders?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Buragohain): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 6 lakhs approximately.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Time was extended in this case as the prospective tenderers did not get enough time to quote. The tender notice was sent for publication in the Indian Trade Journal, on 30th August 1952, for tenders to be opened on 22nd September 1952, but the tender notice actually appeared in the Journal in its issue dated 13th September 1952. Thus there was only a week for the tenderers to give their quotations.

There were complaints that the Trade had not been given sufficient time to quote, particularly, those firms which had to consult their Principals abroad. It was also felt that there was not sufficient competition (only 4 tenders having been received of which only one was to the specifications) and that the rates quoted were on the high side. It was therefore decided by the Deputy Director General (Supplies and Disposals), that quotations should be called for again. The firms which had quoted first, were also given the chance to re-quote their offers and one of the firms which had quoted the lowest first time actually reduced its tender by Rs. 54,000 while re-quoting.

Tenders are not invited ordinarily afresh after opening them. It is only in exceptional cases that this is done.

(f) Yes, Sir.

The lathes in question are imported ones and not produced locally.

(g) Three more tenders were received as a result of the extension.

(h) After opening the tenders in public, the most suitable tender(s) in respect of prices, delivery, particulars, etc., is/are accepted and action taken to place orders in the usual way.

(i) Tendered rates are not allowed to be changed except when for special reasons, the prices and other terms, are to be negotiated with the tendering firms which then get equal chances to revise their quotations.

(j) An elaborate procedure has already been prescribed by which the sanctity of tenders is duly maintained.

ECONOMY MEASURES TAKEN BY DELHI STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD

446. Shri Radha Raman: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state what steps have been taken by the Delhi State Electricity Board to economise expenditure and what financial controls are exercised by Government?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) The Board are examining a proposal for reducing the recurring expenditure on clerical staff by preparation of consumers bills and other statistics with the aid of sorting and duplicating machines. Although Government do not exercise any direct control on the finances of the Board, whose functions and powers in this respect are defined by statute, the following provisions in the Electricity (Supply) Act of 1948 vest sufficient powers in the Government to have an overall picture of the finances of the State Electricity Boards and to impose their decisions in some cases:—

(i) Under Section 61 of the Act, the Board have to submit their annual financial statement giving estimated capital and revenue receipts and expenditure for the ensuing year as well as statement of salaries of the members and servants of the Board and other particulars to be placed before the Parliament. The Board has to take into account any comments made in the Parliament.

(ii) Under Section 63, Government can make subventions to the Board and in doing so impose suitable terms of financial control.

(iii) Under Sections 64 and 65 of the Act, Government can impose terms and conditions of loans granted by it or in according permission to the Board to borrow loans.

(iv) Under Section 69 of the Act, apart from providing concurrent audit of the accounts of the Board, the audited accounts have also to be published and placed for all at a reasonable price. The Board has further to comply with, the orders of the Government that may be passed on the audited reports of the Board.

No scheme costing more than Rs. 50 lakhs can be taken in hand by the Board unless it has the approval of the Central Electricity Authority. In case the Board do not accept the recommendations of the Authority, the Scheme has to be referred to the Government for their approval.

Export of Indian Films

447. **Shri C. R. Chowdary:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state how many Indian films were exported to West Pakistan every year during the past four years?

(b) What was the income earned by Government by these exports?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Information regarding the number of cinematograph films exported is not recorded in official statistics.

(b) Nil, as there is no export duty on exposed films.

Invitation to the Prime Minister from Naga Hills People

448. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** (a) Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state whether the Prime Minister received any invitation from any group of people of Naga Hills prior to his departure for the Eastern tour to include Naga Hills in his tour programme?

(b) Is it a fact that the Prime Minister did not include Naga Hills in his tour programme?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) I received a large number of invitations from various parts of the Tribal Areas in the North East Frontier and Assam. Among them was one, discourteously worded, from some people in the Naga Hills.

(b) I was unable to find time during my brief visit to go to the Naga Hills District. But I visited Mau in Manipur State, which is on the border of this District. I hope I shall have an opportunity of visiting the Naga Hills in the future.

Petroleum and Kerosene Oil

449. **Shri Amjad Ali:** Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) the income, in the shape of taxes, on an average obtained annually by the Government of India on petrol and Kerosene oil; and

(b) the total amount annually allocated to the Government of Assam for each of these items by the Government of India?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Buragohain): (a) Worked on the last 3 years' figures, the annual average income from taxes comes to Rs. one crore, sixty lakhs from Petrol and Kerosene.

(b) No portion of the Central Excise Duty is allocated as such to Assam or any other State Government.

Purchase of Handloom Products by Central Government

450. **Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state whether the Central Government decided in 1949 or 1950 to purchase at least one third of their own requirement of cotton textiles in the shape of handloom products?

(b) In accordance with that decision have the Government of India purchased any handloom products?

(c) If so, (i) for what value in 1950, 1951 and 1952; (ii) what is the quantity in yards; (iii) how much from each State; and (iv) for what departments?

(d) Have Government decided to purchase more?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 29.]

(d) This will depend on the ability of the industry to undertake manufacture according to required specifications.

Export of Fruits

451. **Shri B. N. Roy:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of Indian fruits increased in 1951-52 in comparison with that in 1950-51;

(b) the main varieties of fruits which are exported; and

(c) whether there is any scheme under consideration for developing the export trade in fruits.

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes.

(b) *Dry fruits.*—Cashew nuts and kernels, walnuts, almonds, pista, etc.

Fresh fruits.—Coconuts, citrus fruits (oranges, pomelees, limes etc.) Guava, safota, Mangoes and Bananas.

(c) No.

COIR YARN AND GOODS

452. **Shri E. Iyyani:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state which country was the largest buyer of coir yarn and manufactured goods from India in 1949-50 and 1950-51?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): Both in 1949-50 and 1950-51, the largest buyer of coir yarn was Netherlands and of coir manufactured goods, the United Kingdom.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN MADHYA PRADESH

453. **Sardar A. S. Saigal:** Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of work in respect of the community development projects in Madhya Pradesh at present;

(b) whether the District Development Committees and Project Advisory Committees have been formed;

(c) whether local social workers for the work have been recruited and if so, whether they are trained; and

(d) who is supervising the whole work and what are his qualifications?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Survey of the project areas has been completed and Budget estimates submitted to the Government of India. Construction of Community Centres (Panchayat Ghars) was started in Bastar. In Amravati, Raipur and Bastar project areas, buildings for schools, construction of roads, wells, deepening and improvement of existing wells, construction of soak-pits have also been done. Tanks have been stocked with fingerlings for pisciculture in Raipur project area. In Hoshangabad primary schools were opened and wheat seed and grain distributed.

(b) Yes.

(c) This is under consideration.

(d) Development Commissioner. He is a member of the Indian Civil Service.

HOUSING SCHEME IN ORISSA

454. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is contemplated to construct forty thousand one-storeyed and two-storeyed buildings for labourers and low paid Government servants at a cost of Rs. 9 crores under the New House Construction Scheme of the Government of India;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what amount has been allotted to Orissa for the implementation of the scheme; and

(c) whether the Government of Orissa have begun the implementation of the scheme?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) The Subsidised Housing Scheme contemplates the construction of upto 28,500 tenements for industrial workers during the current year.

(b) No amount has so far been allotted as the Orissa Government have not yet prepared in detail any scheme and sent it up.

(c) Does not arise.

TEA INDUSTRY

455. **Shri K. P. Tripathi:** (a) Will Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state what was the number of workers employed in the tea industry State-wise since 1939 up-to-date?

(b) What is the number of acres under tea plantation State-wise since 1939 up-to-date?

(c) What has been the production of tea State-wise since 1939 up-to-date?

(d) What has been the average price obtained State-wise since 1939 up-to-date of (i) exported tea (ii) tea sold for internal consumption?

(e) What has been the exported quantity State-wise (if possible) year by year since 1939?

(f) What have been the labour wages since 1939 up-to-date. State by State?

(g) What has been the value of exported tea year by year since 1939 to date?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (f). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) to (d). The information is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 30.]

(e) Figures of Statewise exports are not available as statistics of exports are not recorded according to area of production.

(g) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 30.]

IMPORT OF INFANT FOOD

456. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of infant food imported into this country during the year 1951-52:

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to cut down the import of such foods during the current licensing period; and

(c) if so, by what percentage?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) 78,212 Cwts.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In the licensing period January-June, 1952, infant foods were on O.G.L. During July-December, 1952, import is allowed by established importers from soft currency areas on the basis of 20 per cent. of the half of their best year's imports. Actual users applications are also considered from firms having approved packing facilities.

VEHICLES WITH ORGANISATION FOR THE RECOVERY OF ABDUCTED WOMEN

457. **Shri Gidwani:** (a) Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state what is the total number of vehicles at the disposal of the Organisation for the recovery of the abducted women?

(b) What has been the total expenditure on them during the years 1949-50, 1950-51 and 1951-52?

(c) What is the expenditure on the maintenance of these vehicles during the same period?

(d) What is the expenditure on the petrol consumed during the same period?

(e) What is the expenditure on the repairs of these vehicles during the same period?

(f) Are log-books maintained?

(g) If so, are the log-books open to inspection?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) 26 in all. Four of these are in West Pakistan. The others are in Delhi, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Pepsu, Punjab (India), and Jammu.

(b) to (e). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as available.

(f) Yes.

(g) Yes, by authorized persons.

DEVELOPMENT SCHEME FOR NORTH-EAST FRONTIER AGENCY

458. **Shri Gohain:** (a) Will the **Minister of Planning** be pleased to state whether the Development Scheme prepared under the Five Year Plan for the North-East Frontier Agency has been finalised?

(b) If so, what are the total amounts under different heads such as Education, Health, Communication, Agriculture and Social amenities?

(c) What amount will be provided as loans for Industrial and Agricultural Development?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 31.]

(c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

CORRUGATED IRON SHEETS FOR MANIPUR

459. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the total requirement of corrugated iron sheets by the State of Manipur and the supply of the same to the State during the years 1950-51, 1951-52 and 1952-53;

(b) whether Government are aware that a number of applications for corrugated iron sheets, particularly from the hill people, are kept pending for the last two or three years; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to take any step to meet the demand of the people of Manipur for corrugated iron sheets?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) The information is not readily available as detailed statistics of demands from and supplies to each State according to each category of steel are not maintained.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

RECOVERY OF ABDUCTED WOMEN (EXPENDITURE)

460. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state what is the *per capita* expenditure in repect of each abducted person recovered in India during the years 1949-50, 1950-51 and 1951-52 under the Organisation for the recovery of abducted women?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): It is extremely difficult to determine the per capita cost of each abducted person recovered. Each recovery case has to be dealt with under individual circumstances. In some cases recovered persons are restored soon after recovery whereas in other cases persons recovered have to be detained in camps for fairly long periods pending investigation and subsequent restoration or return after the Tribunal has given its award.

IMPORT OF WOOD SCREWS

461. **Mulla Abdullabhai:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state what amount of Import licenses were granted for the import of wood screws during the periods July—December 1951, and January—June, 1952?

(b) What quantity of wood screws did actually arrive in this country during the above two periods?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 32.]

STEEL WIRE FOR WOOD SCREWS

462. **Mulla Abdullabhai:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state the total quota of the main raw material, *i.e.*, steel wire, necessary for the manufacture of wood screws made available to the indigenous manufacturers during 1951?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): 960 tons.

GOLD AND SILVER THREAD WORK OF HYDERABAD

464. **Shri H. G. Vaishnav:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any encouragement is being given to the well known cottage industry of "Himru Master" of Aurangabad and "Kalabatu" *i.e.*, gold and silver thread work of Paithan in Hyderabad State;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what is the nature of the encouragement; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons thereof?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). The development of cottage and small-scale industries is, in the main, the responsibility of the State Governments concerned. The Government of Hyderabad has been taking keen interest in developing "Himru" by introducing a number of new designs in the manufacture of "Himru" fabrics. They have also constituted a committee to suggest ways and means of improving the designs and for suggesting other means of developing this industry.

The Government of India also have been encouraging this industry by obtaining the fabric in different colours for display in the Central Cottage Industries Emporium, with the result that a number of Indian and foreign visitors have not only appreciated this fabric but have also purchased it in large quantities. In foreign exhibitions in which the Government of India participated, "Himru" was exhibited.

As regards "Kalabatu" of Paithan, *i.e.* golden and Silver thread work, information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Does not arise.

GRANT TO MADRAS STATE FROM HANDLOOM FUND

465. **Shri Kachiroyar:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the amount and date of payment of grant to the Government of Madras from the Handloom Fund of 1949 for handloom development schemes;

(b) whether the Government of Madras have applied for further grant from the Handloom Fund and if so, with what result; and

(c) the number of representatives from Madras State on the All India Handloom Board?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) (i) Rs. 2,15,700 sanctioned on the 26th December, 1950.

(ii) Rs. 1,00,000 sanctioned on the 17th August, 1951.

(b) The Government of Madras have submitted fresh schemes which will be placed before the All India Handloom Board.

(c) The constitution of the All-India Handloom Board is not intended to provide representations on the basis of States. It happens that at this moment there are three non-official members from the Madras State besides two officials.

RENT FOR GOVERNMENT QUARTERS

466. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state the dates on which the standard rents of Government quarters at New Delhi were revised during the last three years and the causes which led to such revisions?

(b) Is it a fact that the latest revisions have increased the standard rents of certain types of clerks' quarters by more than 200 per cent.?

(c) Are Government aware that such abnormal increases have their repercussions on owners of private houses and are contrary to the provisions of Rent Control Act?

(d) Is it a fact that Officers who have not been provided with accommodation to which they are entitled are required to pay almost the same rates of rent as are paid by officers of equal status occupying higher and better types of accommodation?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) The hon. Member has obviously in mind the revision of rents based on their pooling and not the usual quinquennial revision necessitated by additions and alterations to structures which add materially to their capital cost.

Accommodation allottable to the same category of Government servants but constructed at different times carry different rents, as they are based upon the cost involved. With the considerable addition that has taken place by way of new construction of residences, this disparity in rent for the same category of accommodation became very pronounced. It was, therefore, considered equitable to pool together the rents of all the buildings and average them out with due regard to the actual usable living space available in the different quarters. Such an attempt was made in February 1950, but it was not fully implemented as it was felt that the methods adopted were susceptible of improvement. With a view, however, to reducing the loss to Government where it was clear that appreciably higher rents would reasonably be charged and at the same time securing that the necessary relief was made available to those whose rents then were proportionately high, it was decided that pending further consideration, a ten per cent. increase should be made on the rents of those houses in where rents would have gone up, and in those cases where rents would have gone down, the rents as provisionally revised and reduced then should be levied. In either case the normal application of the ten per cent. ceiling in relation to the pay of the occupant was of course enforced and a further review was taken in hand. As a result of the further review, revised rents have been announced to be effective from 1st November 1952. These revised rents have secured an uniform basis of assessment, in relation to the effective accommodation available in the residences.

(b) While for certain types of quarters the rents have increased the magnitude of the increase is not anything of the order mentioned by the Honourable Member. It should not of course be overlooked that whatever be the rents, the 10 per cent. ceiling continues to apply.

(c) In view of the basis of the revision explained, it would be appreciated that there cannot be any material repercussions on owners of private houses; nor could it be held to be contrary to the provisions of the Rent Control Act.

(d) This may be so in some cases, but not as a general rule.

WOOL AND PASHMINA

467. **Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of different kinds of wool and pashmina produced in India in different States in the last five years *viz.*, 1948 to 1952;

(b) the total number of mills in India State-wise;

(c) the total number of hand-looms engaged in woollen and pashmina industry respectively;

(d) the requirements of the woollen mills and those of the handloom industries;

(e) whether any quantities of wool or pashmina are exported outside India to foreign countries and if so, what quantity and of what value of each one of them is annually exported and to what countries; and

(f) whether any wool is imported from outside countries and if so, from which countries, in what quantity and of what value?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Estimates of production are available for raw wool as a whole and are not separately available for different kinds and pashmina. A statement of production per year on the basis of the 1945 census of livestock is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 33.]

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 33.]

(c) The information is not available.

(d) It is estimated that the requirements of the woollen mills and the handloom industry (including carpet and drugget industries) are about 10 million lbs. and 20 million lbs. per year respectively.

(e) Yes. A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 33.]

(f) Yes. A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 33.]

COWS, BULLS AND BUFFALOES (IMPORT)

468. Shri B. S. Murthy: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cows, bulls and buffaloes which were imported into India during the years 1950-51 and 1951-52;

(b) the countries from which such imports were made; and

(c) the total value of such imports during the said period?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) to (c). Separate figures relating to import of cows, bulls and buffaloes are not maintained.

SCHOOL SLATES

469. Shri Muniswamy: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of school slates imported into India during 1938-39, 1939-40, 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1950-51;

(b) the quantity and value of school slates produced in India, consumed in India and exported during the same period; and

(c) whether India is self-sufficient in the supply of school slates?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Import and export figures for slates as such are not recorded separately in Trade Accounts.

(b) Consumption and production figures are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House when received.

(c) From the results of an Enquiry conducted by the Tariff Board in 1948-49, it is observed that India is self-sufficient to meet the demands for school slates.

DIAMOND FIELDS

470. Shri B. S. Murthy: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted as to the diamond fields available in India and the variety obtained in India;

(b) the total production and export during 1950-51 and 1951-52;

(c) the total imports during 1950-51 and 1951-52; and

(d) the steps taken to step up production of diamonds in India?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Field investigations in certain areas in Vindhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh have been carried out. The varieties of diamonds obtained in the Panna District of Vindhya Pradesh are brilliant white or blue white.

(b) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 34.]

ELECTROLYTIC COPPER

471. Shri B. S. Murthy: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the total annual imports of Electrolytic copper and its money value;

(b) the total annual output of fire-refined copper in India and the places where it is manufactured; and

(c) the steps, if any, taken to manufacture electrolytic copper in India?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) The information is not available in regard to electrolytic copper as an exclusive item. The position regarding imports of all grades of copper is as follows:—

	Quantity	Value
	tons.	Rs.
1950	34,035	7,51,93,816
1951	6,779	2,05,48,964
1952 (up to Aug.)	7,659	2,29,53,662

(b) Fire-refined copper produced in India :—

1950	6,614 tons.
1951	7,083 ,,
1952 (upto Oct.)	5,063 ,,

The fire-refined copper is produced at Ghatsila (Bihar).

(c) A scheme for installation of a Silver Refinery at Alipore, Calcutta has been approved by Government which, when started, will produce Electrolytic Copper as a by-product. The initial and ultimate target of production will be 3,600 and 10,000 tons per annum, respectively.

CHROMITE ORE

472. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether low-grade chromite ore is permitted to be exported, if so, the quantity exported in 1950-51 and 1951-52;

(b) the steps taken to prevent high-grade chromite ore being exported as low-grade chromite ore; and

(c) the export duty on chromite ore?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes. Quantities exported were

1950-51	3,564 tons.
1951-52	8,678 tons.

(b) Export of high grade chromite ore is prohibited. Further, before any low-grade ore is allowed to be exported, the exporter has to satisfy the Iron and Steel Controller by producing a certificate of analysis from the Geological Department of the State concerned that the ore tendered for export is of low grade.

(c) There is no export duty on this ore.

FOREIGN CAPITAL

473. **Shri Nanadas:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Note on foreign capital submitted by the All-India Manufacturers' Organisation;

(b) if so, what are its contents; and

(c) what action Government have taken on it?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) to (c). A letter from the All India Manufacturers Organisation dated 30th July 1952, was received by the Ministry. The letter is mainly a dissertation on the inadvisability of allowing foreign capital in Indian industries. Government do not think any action is called for in respect of this letter.

TECHNICAL PERSONNEL FOR MACHINE TOOL FACTORY

474. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of **Production** be pleased to state whether the recruitment of the key technical personnel for the Machine Tool Factory has been finalised?

(b) If so, what is the total number of Swiss and Indian gentlemen recruited and what are their terms of appointment?

(c) What is the total value of the order for plant and machinery placed up-to-date and from what countries?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) No.

(b) So far only 12 foreign technical officers have been recruited on a contract basis. The period of their contract varies from one to three years and the other terms generally conform to the normal terms granted to officers engaged on contract.

(c) About Rs. 100 lakhs, mostly from Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Germany and France.

UREA-*cum*-AMMONIUM NITRATE PLANT AT SINDRI

475. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of **Production** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Urea-*cum*-Ammonium Nitrate Plant at Sindri; and

(b) whether help of the Technical Co-operation Administration has been sought for financial assistance and if so, with what result?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) Government are investigating if plants for Urea and Ammonium Nitrate should be put up as a measure of expansion of fertilizer production by Sindri Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited.

(b) Yes, but the extent of the aid which will be forthcoming will only be settled after the results of an engineering survey of the project, which is being undertaken, are known.

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

Acc. No. ...25?7
Dated ...20.11.2

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Tuesday, 9th December, 1952

The House met at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(*See Part I*)

11-45 A.M.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

CYCLONE IN TAMILNAD

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Deputy Minister of Home Affairs will now make a statement regarding the adjournment motion relating to havoc caused by the recent cyclone in Tamilnad.

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): On Saturday last, Government promised to make a statement to the House about the damage caused in Tamilnad by the recent cyclone. Since then the matter has been taken up in the Madras Legislative Assembly and the Chief Minister made a detailed statement in that Assembly yesterday. I propose to circulate to the Members of the House copies of that statement tomorrow. In the meanwhile I proceed to give a summary of the latest information available to us. In view, however, of the fact that communications have been interrupted in certain areas, the statement is not quite complete. Also, I understand that it has been raining heavily in parts of Tamilnad since Sunday night and this might have caused some further damage.

On the morning of Sunday, the 30th November, a cyclonic storm of great velocity struck the South-East coast of Madras State and passed inland. Cyclonic weather is not unusual at this time of the year in that part of India but it appears to have been exceptionally severe on the present occasion. There was heavy rain from about 9 A.M. to 10 P.M. The cyclone was followed by a tidal wave and reports from more than one coastal town in the affected area refer to flooding by sea-water.

The affected area consists mainly of Tanjore and Tirrucharapally districts. The storm blew off roofs of houses, uprooted trees, and caused collapse of dwelling houses. Although most of the latter were mud houses and weak structures, quite a number of pucca buildings were damaged including a tuberculosis sanatorium which sustained serious damage. 169 persons have died and a number of persons have also been injured. Some 7 to 8 thousand heads of cattle have been lost, so far as has been ascertained at present.

Paddy, the main crop of the area, is reported to have been generally saved, but a five-mile belt of paddy along the Nagapatam coast has been destroyed. All reports agree that the greatest damage was suffered by cocoanut groves and plantain gardens. A final report as to the extent of damage is expected in the next few days.

Road communications were cut off on the 30th November but most of the main roads were restored by the 5th of December. Railway track was obstructed by fallen trees, telegraph and telephone wires damaged, and signalling posts badly twisted both on the main line (Villupuram-Cuddalore-Mayavaram-Trichinopoly Sections) as well as on the chord and branch lines. The obstruction was cleared and the tracks restored in most places by the 2nd and now the tracks yet to be restored are only two. It has been raining since Sunday night. A passenger train capsized on its side at Koyilvenni station but fortunately there was no casualty or injury to any person. Six loaded wagons derailed between Tiruturaipundi-Arangangi but no one was injured. The railway authorities have taken emergency measures for granting relief to their staff and their families by rushing food wherever it is essential, by placing premises at the

[Shri Datar]

disposal of the homeless and by granting advance of pay to the staff badly affected. Telegraph and telephone communications which were badly affected in the area hit by the cyclones were restored rapidly and, in fact, the telecommunication position was practically normal two days ago.

Local officials are taking active steps to arrange immediate relief by way of feeding the poor and the provision of shelter for the homeless. Building materials are being distributed. Non-official relief Committees have been formed in some towns and a District Cyclone Relief Committee is being formed in Tanjore. The State Government have authorised the Collectors to incur expenditure on relief measures; and in view of the nature of the emergency have delegated to them the widest possible discretion. It is clear that the Government of Madras and local non-official associations are dealing with the situation in an energetic manner.

Kumari Annie Mascarene (Trivandrum): In view of the magnitude of the havoc caused by the cyclone has the Central Government given any relief to the State Government?

Shri Datar: It is for the State Government to ask for any aid but they have not asked for any aid from the Central Government.

Shri Vallatharas (Pudukkottai) *rose*—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I will not allow any argument. The hon. Member may kindly resume his seat. I adjourned it for the purpose of enabling the hon. Minister to gather sufficient information regarding this matter and placing it before the House. No doubt a serious hardship has been caused and the matter is being tackled properly by the State Government. It is the primary function of the State Government and whatever help is asked for from the Central Government, it will be certainly given by the Central Government in consultation with the Provincial Government. I will not allow any adjournment motion nn this ground and no further discussion over this matter is necessary. The House now will proceed with......

Shri Nambiar (Mayuram): I am also a signatory of the adjournment motion. I have got a report from Golden Rock that about 2,000 railway workers' quarters are affected, they have lost all their properties and no relief is given to them. It is the concern of the Central Government. Apart from the help offered by the State Government, I want to know whether anything more can be done not only to the losses sustained by the farmers, etc., in Tanjore and Trichinopoly districts but also to the railway workers' properties. In view of these facts, will the Central Government give some relief to these people?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The statement read out by the hon. Deputy Minister of Home Affairs says:

> "The railway authorities have taken emergency measures for granting relief to their staff and their families by rushing food wherever it is essential, by placing premises at the disposal of the homeless and by granting advance of pay to the staff badly affected."

If anything more is necessary, certainly all those matters will be considered by the railway authorities and from the manner in which they have tackled this situation already it is clear that they will not be behind any others in rushing to their aid.

Shri Vallatharas: The havoc caused is to the extent of 15 lakhs in Pudukkottai constituency. May I know whether the Central Government has been furnished with any information from the State as to the total amount that has so far been given during these 9 days as relief to the local people.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Barring the statement that has been made, they are trying to handle the situation.

Shri Vallatharas: May I know what the State Government has done?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members as representatives in the Provincial Legislature are equally anxious about this. I will not allow any more matter to be discussed.

Shri Nambiar: What has happened to the motion.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That motion is disallowed. It is a State subject. There are representatives of the people in the State as we are here. They are sufficiently strong to take care of themselves. Inasmuch as it is an extraordinary situation where both the Central Government and the State Government have to consult and collaborate, I allowed this matter to be placed before the House. The hon. Deputy Minister of Home Affairs has made a statement with respect to all the matters that have been raised and is willing to place such other material that he has before the House. Under these circumstances, it is unnecessary to pursue this matter, The Government is equally anxious to do its best in this regard.

Shri Amjad Ali (Goalpara-Garo Hills): On a point of order. I tabled an adjournment motion and I am to be informed what has happened to it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Regarding the Adjournment motion, hon. Member must bear in mind that so far as adjournment motions are concerned, copies of the motion must be handed over to the Speaker, the Minister concerned and the Secretary and if the Speaker has given his consent, then, it can be brought to the notice of the House. The Speaker may find that it is not necessary to give his consent at all in which case it cannot be referred to the House. This is apart from the admissibility. The rule 60 says that a motion for adjournment of the business of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance may be made with the consent of the Speaker.

Shri Sarmah (Goalghat-Jorhat) *rose*—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. I have already indicated here that so far as the particular matter is concerned, if before the adjournment motion was tabled, there are questions relating to that matter and which are coming up by way of discussion for half an hour, as in this matter, an adjournment motion is not necessary. I said, it is not a matter of recent occurrence. The matter has already been brought to the notice of the House and a separate half an hour has been devoted for discussion of that matter. Therefore, I need not give my consent. It is not necessary. It is only a repetition.

Shri Sarmah: May I, with your leave, invite the attention of the Government to a very urgent matter in connection with the same matter.........

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No, no.

Shri Sarmah: I got the telegram last night.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have not given my consent to the adjournment motion. I am not going to allow this motion without even the adjournment motion.

Shri Sarmah: This is a different matter.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There may be many matters. The hon. Member can tell me what exactly it is. I cannot interrupt the proceedings of the House. I must go by the Order Paper. There are various items to be gone through today. Now, legislative business.

IRON AND STEEL COMPANIES AMALGAMATION BILL

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Further consideration of the Bill. Clause by clause discussion will now take place.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 4 to 6 were added to the Bill.

Clause 7.— (*Terms of transfer*)

Shri N. Somana (Coorg): I beg to move:

In page 2, lines 47 and 49,—

for "for" substitute "of the value of".

Shri A. C. Guha (Santipur): I have an amendment, No. 7.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am coming to that later.

Shri N. Somana: The sentence as it stands is not very clear.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): It is only a verbal amendment. Instead of 'for' he wants the words 'of the value of'. It means the same thing.

12 NOON

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is felt that it is not necessary. There is no difference in substance. It is one of form. The form as it stands is equally intelligible.

Shri N. Somana: The clause says, "......four ordinary shares for rupees ten each......". The language would be better if it reads "......four ordinary shares of the value of rupees ten each ......".

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Not necessary; it is after all a verbal amendment.

Shri Sinhasan Singh (Gorakhpur Distt.—South): I want to move that in section 8......

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We are on clause 7 now.

Shri A. C. Guha: I beg to move:

In page 3, after line 25, insert,—

> "Provided that the Central Government in consultation with the Tariff Commission shall have the power to convert the preference shares into ordinary shares within three years from the appointed day."

My only submission is that in such an important industry, preferential shares should not be allowed to continue

[Shri A. C. Guha]

indefinitely. What I want to put in by this amendment is that Government should have the authority, in consultation with the Tariff Commission, to convert the preference shares into ordinary shares within three years from the appointed day. A similar policy should be adopted as regards the Tatas. My throat does not permit me to say much. My purpose is clear. I hope the hon. Minister will have no objection to accept my amendment.

Shri Bansal (Jhajjar-Rewari): What is your reason?

Shri A. C. Guha: Preference shares have a particular claim for dividend even if the company is not earning any profit. I think they can also sue the company for a fixed dividend. This prior claim of a particular section of the shareholders should not be allowed and they should not be allowed to have a preferential claim on the income of the company for a fixed rate of dividend.

Shri Bansal: The debenture holders have the same claim.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: By this amalgamation, we have not attempted to change the structure of the companies except that in clause 14 we have taken powers to secure representation of the Central Government by means of rules. Otherwise, we have not interfered with the structure of the companies. I do not think I am in a position to accept the amendment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it necessary to put it to the House?

Shri A. C. Guha: Not necessary.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

> "That clause 7 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 7 was added to the Bill.

Clause 8.---(*Priority as between secured creditors etc.*)

Shri Sinhasan Singh: I beg to move:

In page 3, line 54, for "with" and in page 4, for lines 1-4, substitute "be treated on par with the similar secured creditors of the Iron and Steel Company for the repayment of their debts as if the debts had been initially advanced to the Iron and Steel Company."

The clause relates to the payment of secured creditors. The clause says that after the amalgamation of two companies, the secured creditors of the dissolved company will be paid in such a way as may be agreed upon between them and the emergent company, and if there is no agreement, then, a tribunal shall be appointed. My suggestion is that this is a lengthy procedure and if the secured creditors are given the same status as if they were originally secured creditors of the Iron and Steel Company, there will be no discrimination between the two secured creditors. By proposing this amendment, I seek to put all the secured creditors of both the companies on an equal footing so that there may be no discrimination and so that no secured creditor could get a priority over the other secured creditor. If Government accepts it, I think it is only putting both secured creditors on equality, and their debts of priority will rank according to the dates on which they have advanced to the company.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The hon. Member is not aware of the fact that in regard to the Steel Corporation of Bengal, there are no debentures. In the case of the Indian Iron & Steel Co., there are debenture-holders. The position is that these debenture-holders, as secured creditors, have to be safeguarded as against an ordinary creditor of the Steel Corporation. That is why these words have been chosen. If he had understood the position, he would not have moved it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It seems to be unnecessary.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: On the other hand, we have to safeguard the position of the debenture-holders.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Does he want to press his amendment.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: If Government says it is something different from what the words show, then I do not want to press it.

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): I do not want to speak very much on this clause. I want to ascertain from the hon. Minister whether in the Steel Corporation there are secured creditors other than debenture-holders. If it is so, what will be their position *vis-a-vis* the other secured creditors of the Indian Iron & Steel Co. Naturally, when the Steel Corporation is merged into the Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd., the debenture-holders have the first claim, and necessarily the mortgagee of the Steel Corporation will be inferior to the debenture-holders of the Indian Iron & Steel Co., Ltd. If there are no such secured creditors. the contingency may not arise, but from the report we could not ascertain the actual position. We think that if there are secured creditors, this provision has been made in such a way as to leave entirely to the Government the power to decide who should be the arbitrator. But when they advanced loans, the creditors had naturally certain rights, and they should have been given an opportunity to go to a forum in which every party has equal chance to get justice. I do not say Government should act in that way, but when Government takes the decision, there might be a feeling in the minds of these secured creditors that in appointing the arbitrator, there is a likelihood of some injustice being done. If the facts are otherwise, this contingency will not arise.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: According to the information the Government have, the position is that we have to safeguard the position of debenture-holders of the Indian Iron & Steel Co., Ltd. And the debentures amount to about Rs. 1,58,53,000. The primary thing that has to be done is to secure the position of these people. In regard to other advances, I understand they are only bank advances and there are no creditors of a status on a par with that of the debenture-holders, and that is why this has been put in very clearly. The matter has been gone into by my legal advisers and it is only after consultation with the parties concerned that this has been put in.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Gurgaon): Clause 8 reads:

> "Creditors of the dissolved company whose debts are secured by a mortgage, charge or lien on the property of the dissolved company or any part thereof shall, with reference to similar secured creditors of the Iron and Steel Company, have such priority......"

It appears that there are two sets of persons, those secured creditors who have got their debts against the Steel Company of Bengal and similar creditors so far as the I.I.S.C. is concerned. Why should there be a priority between the two, and why should these companies determine it? The creditors are strangers, third-parties, and their debts are secured on the two different companies. Either they should have equal rights, or their rights should be determined by a Court. The companies have got no say in the matter so far as these persons are concerned. My humble submission is that this clause also predicates two sets of creditors both of whom are similarly placed. There should be no determination of priority and no right of this nature should be given to the companies. Those persons have got their own rights under the law, and they can enforce them in the civil courts. There is no reason why class one, *i.e.*, creditors of one company, or class two, *i.e.*, creditors of the other, should have any preference at all. I fail to understand the meaning of this Clause 8 when the hon. Minister says that there are only debenture-holders in respect of company number one.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The position really is this. I am sorry I am not able to explain myself very clearly. So far as his point is concerned, I can understand it. The point really is that the hon. Member raises the question of rights of parties in this matter.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Secured creditors as distinguished from debenture-holders. There can be persons who have mortgaged its property.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: That position is not interfered with at all. The Clause reads:

> "Creditors of the dissolved company whose debts are secured by a mortgage, charge or lien on the property of the dissolved company or any part thereof shall, with reference to similar secured creditors of the Iron and Steel Company, have such priority......"

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He wants to know why there should be such priority.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The point really is this. When you dissolve a company, there are creditors, secured or unsecured as the case may be. And naturally, people who have a lien on a dissolved company would like to get a discharge. Whereas the company that exists is there all the time, and on the other hand, there has been a further accretion of capital assets to the company which exists. Therefore, the words are put in. I merely state as a general proposition that the only type of secured creditors are the debenture-holders, and only the I.I.S. Co. has got it, and the S.C.O.B. has not got it. There is no question of debenture-holders there. Other creditors might exist. My information is that they are not anything very important. The Banks are there and there is an arrangement between the I.I.S. Co., and after the taking over of the S.C.O.B., the Banks will transfer the debts to the company which exists. When a

[Shri T. T. Krishnamachari]

company is being dissolved, naturally, the repayment of its debts has got to get some priority. But, as to the matter of law which my hon. friend mentions, the rights of parties are being affected. I quite recognise it. The whole scheme affects the rights of parties, the rights of the shareholders. But we have examined the position and we have made enough arrangements to see that nobody is unfairly treated. Otherwise, Government will certainly interfere in the matter.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This is a case where one company acquires the other company, and the latter company goes out of existence. The creditors of the former company have got greater assets and a greater sense of security than the others. Therefore, the others must be paid off. That is the scheme. The question is:

"That clause 8 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 8 was added to the Bill.

Clause 9.—(*Provision* re. *taxation*)

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Basirhat): I want to say a few words on my amendment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member will kindly move the amendment and then speak.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I beg to move:

In page 4, line 22, for "written down" substitute "present".

The reason why I make this amendment is this. Generally speaking, when income-tax or taxation is made, it is calculated on the present value of the assets plus a certain reasonable amount of depreciation, but here we are giving to a company which on the face value has been giving dividends at a very high rate, the written down value thereof. Of course, there are certain real difficulties for us to judge the matter because we do not know, regarding the S.C.O.B. especially, if the principle of accounting has been the same as with the I.I.S. Co., and if the principle of depreciation also has been calculated on the same basis as the I.I.S. Co. Therefore, we do not quite know whether the ratio has been fairly drawn up, and as far as we can make out from the pamphlet supplied to us, the ratio has been worked out on the basis of last year's dividend which was somewhat of a record. Therefore we fear that by taking the assets at their written down value, we will be deprived of the assessment of quite a good amount of income-tax. Today the present value is far higher than the written down value, and we feel why should the Government be deprived of the income-tax, when the dividends have been so high, and as has been reported in the *Indian Finance*, in the speech made by the Chairman, he has repeatedly emphasised:

> "It is safe to claim that the shareholders of the Amalgamated Company may hope to get increasingly higher dividends".

Therefore, I move that the words 'written down' may be replaced by the word 'present'.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Amendment moved:

In page 4, line 22, for "written down" substitute "present".

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I quite appreciate the purpose underlying the hon. Member's amendment. But the hon. Member forgets that this is an amalgamation, that it is not even a purchase. If actually the Indian Iron and Steel Company is going to purchase the Steel Corporation of Bengal, it is quite possible that the income-tax authorities might say "Well, it is a fictitious purchase and not a *bona fide* purchase that has been made. So the value must be the present day value. You have not paid the proper price." But there is no such thing here. Therefore the books are taken as a whole and the book value of the assets, which is the written down value, is entered into the books of the Indian Iron and Steel Company.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The income-tax has already been paid?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The income-tax authorities have accepted that written down value. So we cannot now re-assess the value of the assets of the Steel Corporation of Bengal and enter into a fresh assessment. Then there will be disparity between the share value and the re-assessed value. As such we have got to take the book values as there, and the book values are the written down values. That is why it has been laid down in the Clause that the written values will be taken into account.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Otherwise the income-tax will have to be paid twice over?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Otherwise it would mean that.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is the hon. Member pressing her amendment?

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Yes Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

In page 4, line 22,—

for "written down" substitute "present".

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That Clause 9 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 9 was added to the Bill.

Clause 10.—(*Interim Dividends*)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is an amendment standing in the name of Mr. Sinhasan Singh, that Clause 10 be omitted. Is the hon. Member moving it?

Shri Sinhasan Singh: I am not moving it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 10 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 10 was added to the Bill.

Clause 11.—(*Officers and other servants*)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is an amendment in the name of Mr. Sinhasan Singh. Is the hon. Member moving it?

Shri Sinhasan Singh: I am not moving it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Mr. Guha.

Shri A. C. Guha: My first amendment reads like this:

In page 4, line 46,

for "employed" substitute "in employment".

I do not know whether the hon. Minister has in mind 'any officer who is employed immediately before the appointed day', then the language is quite all right. But if he means 'any officer who is found in employment before the appointed day', then I think the language is defective. If the hon. Minister reads the sentence in the Clause leaving aside the parenthesis in the brackets, he will realise that the language is not quite correct.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not think there is any mistake in it.

Shri A. C. Guha: The language according to English grammar would run like this:

"Every officer or other servant (including.........) employed immediately before the appointed day........."

That is the real construction of the sentence. But if you read it that way, then the language is not quite correct to cover all the contingencies. What is meant is 'any officer found in employment before the appointed day'.

Another point I would suggest for the consideration of the hon. Minister is this. In all other enactments the word 'servant' has been replaced by 'employee'. If there is no amendment to that effect, I think the hon. Minister himself may move an amendment to that effect.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: In that case, hereafter for 'public servant' we should use 'public employees'.

Shri A. C. Guha: No, Sir. The term 'public servant' is quite another thing.

I think in two or three recent enactments the word 'servant' has been replaced by 'employee'.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not mind accepting it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have no objection.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I quite concede that what my hon. friend suggests is more elegant. But I think what is laid down in the Clause serves the purpose. I would rather not make an amendment for the purpose of elegance. If it is a question of mere elegance, if you read the sentence according to English construction, I must confess that it is a foreign language, and my English is working English.

Shri A. C. Guha: But the wording of the law should not leave any lacuna.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: There is no lacuna in that. I agree to change the word 'servant' to 'employee'. But as for the other one, I think the wording may better remain as it is.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What is the difficulty which the hon. Member feels? I am not able to follow. 'Employed' means he might have been employed some time before and dismissed?

Shri A. C. Guha: If you read the sentence the construction of the sentence is:

[Shri A. C. Guha]

> "Every officer or other servant (......) employed immediately before the appointed day......"

To fill up the real sense, the construction of the sentence should be:

> "Every officer or other servant (......) who is found in employment before the appointed day...",

and not

> "Every officer or other servant (......) employed immediately before the appointed day......".

The Minister of Law and Minority Affairs (Shri Biswas): There can be no new employment after dissolution.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: On the date of dissolution, there will not be any further employment. Difficulty will arise only when a short time before the appointed day he was employed and dismissed before the appointed day. Any officer who is employed before the appointed day only will be entitled to all this.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: If the hon. Member says 'At 12-20 P.M. on the 9th December, Shri T. T. Krishnamachari was employed as a Minister', or 'Shri T. T. Krishnamachari was in employment as a Minister', I think both mean the same thing.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: To my mind, the term 'employed' means actually employed on the previous day or employed for the first time on that day. I do not think it is necessary to have this amendment.

Shri A. C. Guha: There are two other amendments in my name.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I shall come to them presently. What about the amendment in the name of Shri Khub Chand Sodhia? Is he moving it?

Shri K. C. Sodhia (Sagar): My amendment reads:

In page 4, line 51 after "gratuity" insert "or other benefits".

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is far too vague.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: Today the officers and persons working under the merging companies may have some benefits. My amendment seeks to transfer the same benefits to them in the new amalgamated company.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is the hon. Member aware of any such benefit? Or is it only an academic thing?

Shri K. C. Sodhia: I do not know, but there may be other benefits, apart from pension or gratuity, for the employees.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: In the absence of any information that there are any other benefits, why should we put in this amendment in the Clause? The term 'other benefits' is so vague that it may lead to complications as to whether there are other benefits or not.

Shri N. Somana: I think the term 'rights and privileges' found in the Clause would include all benefits.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I do not think the hon. Member wants to press it. Now, there is one amendment in the name of Shrimati Renu Chakravartty.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Sir, I beg to move:

(i) In page 4, line 51, after "gratuity" insert "scales of pay, grades, and all other conditions pertaining to security and promotion."

(ii) In page 5, after line 3 insert:

> "*Note I.*—None shall be retrenched as being surplus.
>
> *Note II.*—The terms and conditions of employment shall not be adversely altered."

I move these two amendments, because I feel that it is very necessary to guarantee that there will be no retrenchment under the excuse of the staff being surplus, or that the scales of pay etc. may not be adversely affected for the one company or the other. The reason for this is. We find that in the past also many guarantees or promises have been made at the time of amalgamations or taking over of companies. We have been told that the rights and privileges will be guaranteed. For instance, in 1945 in the TELCO at Jamshedpur we find that the same thing happened. The employees were taken over. Then after a while there was retrenchment on the ground that the staff became surplus. Therefore, I want to move these two amendments so that it becomes quite clear that not only is it a question of pension or gratuity but all other things such as conditions of security and promotion are guaranteed and together with that the other point, that the terms and conditions of employment shall not be adversely altered. This we have to press because in the past many promises have been gone back upon. Therefore, I move these two amendments.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: If you will kindly read clause 11, the words are......

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I will place these amendments formally before the House. Amendments moved:

(i) In page 4, line 51, after "gratuity" insert "scales of pay, grades, and all other conditions pertaining to security and promotion".

(ii) In page 5, after line 3, insert:

> "*Note I.*—None shall be retrenched as being surplus.
>
> *Note II.*—The terms and conditions of employment shall not be adversely altered."

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I was submitting that if you kindly read clause 11, it appears that the words are:

> "shall, as from the appointed day, become an officer or other servant, as the case may be, of the Iron and Steel Company and shall hold his office or service therein by the same tenure and upon the same terms and conditions and with the same rights and privileges as to pension or gratuity as he would have held the same under the dissolved company......"

My humble submission is that these words 'upon the same terms and conditions' are quite specific, and in regard to rights and privileges......

Mr. Deputy-Speaker:

> "...as he would have held the same under the dissolved company if this Act had not been passed".

If after passing this Act, retrenchment is necessitated that is not allowed. Amalgamation shall not affect their status or security. That is what appears to be the language of the section.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: The idea is that nobody should suffer on account of this amalgamation. He would have the same old pay, same scale etc. etc.

Now, in regard to rights and privileges, there is a limitation because those are only limited to pension or gratuity but in regard to other terms and conditions they continue the same as before. Therefore, these words "scales of pay, grades, and all other conditions pertaining to security and promotion", I think, become unnecessary. The other words are there. They only exemplify. I think this is not necessary.

Shri K. K. Basu: If you kindly read the last few lines, it says: " ......shall continue to do so unless and until he is duly removed from his employment in the Iron and Steel Company or until his terms and conditions of employment are duly altered by that Company". I think this qualifies the entire sentence before and the contention of Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava does not hold good, unless specifically it is put down that such terms and conditions cannot be altered by the Government itself, I think they have a chance to make a change.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Is there any objection if you better the conditions?

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: My amendment is for that. If their terms and conditions are bettered it is all right......

Shri K. K. Basu: It should not be altered in any way adverse to the interests of the employees. It may be altered for the better.

Another point. I would like to know from the hon. Minister about this exclusion clause 'excluding therefrom directors, managing agents and London Committee Members'. There is a confusion about the managing agents and London Committee Members. I would like to know what happens to them after this amalgamation—whether they will get some special privileges or rights.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: In regard to the last point, security is not afforded to the London Committee Members. They can go. In regard to the point raised by the hon. lady Member, I think my hon. friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, is quite right. 'Upon the same terms and conditions'—that fulfils the purpose that she has in mind. But she has not, I may venture to point out, asked for the deletion of the words 'unless and until he is duly removed from his employment in the Iron and Steel Company or until his terms and conditions of employment are duly altered by that Company'. If she had asked for the deletion of those words, very possibly there might be some purpose in putting in this: So long as those words are there, the note is meaningless. It is redundant—and she has not thought of deleting those words. Therefore the purpose is that while the employees of the Steel Corporation of Bengal would occupy the same position as they did when they were in the Steel Corporation, no rights are conceded here in respect of them which will be in any way superior to the rights enjoyed by the employees of the Indian Iron and Steel Company. The Indian Iron and Steel Company's employees are liable to be removed by

[Shri T. T. Krishnamachari]

giving them due notice or making charges against them and so on. What is now asked is that the dissolved company's employees must have a more secure position in the company which takes them than their own employees. If the idea is that no employee should be removed from any company, it is a different matter altogether. But here what the hon. Member wants is that these people must have a privileged position. The employees of the Indian Iron and Steel Company can be left at sea. This is the idea! While keeping the employees of the Steel Corporation the employees, the Iron and Steel Company's employees can be given notice and so on. So the purpose cannot be served by an amendment of this nature.

I would, therefore, suggest that the House vote against the amendments.

Shri A. C. Guha: Regarding No. 11. I do not like to move it. But I want the hon. Minister.........

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let me dispose of Shrimati Renu Chakravartty's amendments. The question is:

(i) In page 4, line 51, after "gratuity" insert "scales of pay, grades, and all other conditions pertaining to security and promotion".

(ii) In page 5, after line 3, insert:

"*Note I.*—None shall be retrenched as being surplus.

Note II.—The terms and conditions of employment shall not be adversely altered."

The motions were negatived.

Amendment made:

In page 4, lines 44 and 48, for "servant" substitute "employee".

—[*Shri A. C. Guha*]

Shri A. C. Guha: With reference to clause 11, I hope the hon. Minister will give us some clarification about the position of the managing agents. Clause 11 guarantees the rights and privileges and conditions of service of the employees and officers of the S.C.O.B. I think the managing agents also would come under this. What would be the remuneration and terms and conditions of the managing agents of the joint company? Would they continue to draw the managing agency allowances that they were drawing separately from the two companies? The same company, Messrs. Martin and Burn are the managing agents for both the companies. For S.C.O.B. only they were drawing over 4 lakhs of rupees annually. I do not know what amount they were drawing from the other company. I think the House should be informed of the terms and conditions of the managing agents of this Joint company.

Then another thing is the London Committees. Both the Companies have got London Committees. What would be the terms and functions of the London Committees. As for my second proviso, the hon. Minister himself knows these companies have Europeans controlling them. They have been importing foreign officials at high pay very often without any real purpose, but simply to engage them and pay them high salaries so that instead of paying a certain amount as income-tax they have thought it better to pay it to some of their own countrymen. So I think there should be some provision that no new appointment of high-salaried officers should be made except with the approval of, or at least previous intimation to, the Government of India. As far as I know, the hon. Minister himself is very keen on this point. I hope he will throw some light on these.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: So far as the managing agents of the Steel Corporation of Bengal are concerned, their rights lapse. I have got the agreement here, and they have also agreed that they will claim no rights in regard to the loss that they sustain by reason of the fact that S.C.O.B. is dissolved. So, all that they will obtain is only the terms and conditions under the Martin Burn & Co., as managing Agents of I.I.S. Co. There will be no addition to the remuneration paid to the Managing Agents of Indian Iron and Steel Company, by virtue of the fact that there is additional weight or burden placed on them by the amalgamation. Of that, I am quite categorical because the arrangement stands as it is now. There has been no alteration. So far as the London Committee of the S.C.O.B. is concerned, it will be dissolved along with the other things. But in regard to the question of dissolution of the London Committee of the I.I.S. Co., I am not in a position to say anything very definite. The hon. Member may take it that as soon as we find it possible, when the debentures are all paid, the connection with London is cut. The Government would certainly keep this matter in mind.

Shri A. C. Guha: Will it be possible under the law?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The position would be like this. I would like to say this, though it is not proper for me to say it. So far as companies of this nature are concerned, Government have a certain over-riding control which does not go, because we are going to have a continuation of the relationship, we are going to finance them. They are going to come to us every time and the policy of the Government to the extent that we want a divesting of foreign control over these firms is a thing which should be exercised progressively. I can give that assurance to the hon. Member in regard to the employment of foreigners. As a matter of fact, the hon. Member knows it, we have asked for statistics before. I do propose, if the House permits me, to introduce legislation which will give me powers to ask for statistics from any company, Indian or foreign, in the matter of shares, securities, employment, salaries etc.

An Hon. Member: We will support it. We will pass it in half an hour.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member says that they will pass it in half an hour.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: There is a progressive way of doing things. Possibly, I cannot go as fast as the hon. Member can, as I am not as fast in speaking as some hon. Members can do. I can give that assurance in a very general way and in this particular matter I hope the hon. Member will be satisfied.

Shri A. C. Guha: I am quite satisfied with the assurance given by the hon. Minister.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

> "That clause 11, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 11, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 12.—(*Directors of dissolved company*)

Shri K. K. Basu: As per clause 12 as it is put here, the Directors of the Steel Corporation *ipso facto* become the Directors of the Indian Iron and Steel Company. As you know, Sir, Messrs. Martin Burn and Company are the Managing Agents of both these concerns. As Managing Agents they have their share of Directors. So in this Iron and Steel Company, as amalgamated, the number of Directors on behalf of these Managing Agents will naturally increase. So, what steps do Government propose to take as regards this matter.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: If there is any common person, he cannot claim two separate identities.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What the hon. Member is contemplating is if there is one extra Director, to that extent the number of Directors will be increased.

Shri K. K. Basu: My point is that the Managing Agents' representatives increase in the amalgamated company.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: My understanding is that so far as the Managing Agency of the Bengal Steel Corporation is concerned, that will be regarded as dissolved. So, any Directors who are *ex-officio* Directors on behalf of the Managing Agents will also go away automatically.

Shri K. K. Basu: Because under the Companies Act there is some restriction as regards the Directors of the Managing Agents. As there is an amalgamation I should like to know the specific position.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The position is there is no fresh addition to the number to the Directors of the I.I.S.Co. in order to provide for the weightage they have had as Managing Agents of the S.C.O.B. So, if they had anybody there as representing the Managing Agents of the S.C.O.B. he or they will go. But by virtue of the fact that they have shares in the amalgamated concern they might be able to nominate a few. That position cannot be taken away by the measure. But under the powers taken under clause 14, the Government can nominate Directors.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

> "That clause 12 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 12 was added to the Bill.

Clause 12-A.—(*New Clause*)

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I beg to move:

In page 5, after line 11, insert:

"12-A. *Board of Directors.*—The board of Directors shall consist of—

(a) two representatives nominated by the Central Government,

(b) two representatives of consumers interests, and

(c) the Directors of the dissolved companies in accordance with section 12."

[Shrimati Renu Chakravartty]

I move this because I find that there are hardly any powers given to the Central Government to actually have a hold on the working of this amalgamated organisation and we find that only in the rule-making clause there is a sentence, 'representation of the Central Government on the Board of Directors of the Company'. I think that it should be included within the body of the Bill itself so that at least the Government which is going to advance such big sums of money and is going to guarantee such a big loan from the World Bank will have some sort of check on the working of the Company.

Secondly, there should be some representative of consumers interests, especially the small manufacturers outside who will be buying this steel, because we find that the retention prices of steel may be increased. It has already been increased and, as the hon. Minister said, that may be later on increased again according to the conditions that prevail in the market at that time. Therefore, Sir, I feel that these two interests, both of the Central Government as well as of the consumers must be there. Therefore, I move this amendment.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The proper time for an amendment of this nature is when the Government brings forward before this House an amendment of the Indian Companies Act when provision can be made that certain companies could have Directors of this nature. At the present moment, we are not conferring a charter on this Company like the Imperial Bank of India. This Bill does not constitute a charter. We are merely facilitating the amalgamation of both the companies. All that the Government have done in this instance is, that the Government have already given five crores and possibly it may give some more money besides provide a guarantee if the World Bank Loan comes through. We have taken the power to nominate some representatives on the Board. So far as the question of providing representation on the Board of Directors for other interests is concerned, I think, Sir, it does not arise at this moment. It has got to go on some general principles. Why should it be done only for the Indian Iron and Steel Company; why not do it for Tata Iron and Steel Company? We will have to do this in the Companies Act amendment and not here.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shall I put it to the House? One portion has been already incorporated. Under existing sub-clause (d), Government can nominate any number of Directors. This restricts it to 2. As regards the two representatives of consumers' interests, the hon. Minister feels that it must come in line with the rest of the companies under the company law. If it is the desire of the hon. Member that I should place it before the House, I shall do so.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

In page 5, after line 11, insert:

"12-A. *Board of Directors.*—The board of Directors shall consist of—

(a) two representatives nominated by the Central Government,

(b) two representatives of consumers interests, and

(c) the Directors of the dissolved companies in accordance with section 12."

The motion was negatived.

Clause 13 was added to the Bill.

Clause 14.—(*Rules for amalgamation*)

Amendment made:

In page 5, line 26, for "by notification in the Official Gazette" substitute "by rules published in the Official Gazettee".

—[*Shri Bansal*]

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There are other amendments.

Shri K. K. Basu: I would like to move mine.

Shri N. Somana: I have an amendment to move. I am sorry that a small mistake has happened. A comma has to be inserted so as to read on page 6, line 3—"transferred to, and vesting in, the Iron and Steel Company......"

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We do not amend punctuations. That is not a part of the statute. The Draftsman will take note of it and insert the comma. We often put a comma, and the printer omits it by mistake. So, the hon. Member is not moving his amendment. The other hon. Member Mr. T. K. Chaudhuri is not in his seat. Mr. Sodhia is not also here. Mr. Basu may proceed.

Shri K. K. Basu: I beg to move:

In page 5, line 49, after "thereof" insert:

"or for restricting the power of the Director to remit profit or interest or dividends to any foreign country."

In this particular clause, Government are taking certain powers in regard to the determination of the right of borrowing of the Directors and so on notwithstanding the provisions of the Indian Companies Act. It means that the Government visualise that this amalgamation is a step which cannot be guided by the normal law of the land. As the hon. Minister himself has said, this is an industrial concern of national importance and the Government are going to guarantee a loan of large sums of money. Government have also undertaken to advance further sums over and above the Rs. 5 crores already advanced. We all know that these two companies have always been dominated by European influence. I do not say that they are dominated by European shares, because there are Indian shares which are possibly larger than European shares, but in regard to the character of this organisation we have seen that the managing agents of the concerns themselves have always been under the influence of Europeans. We know that even in the management of these concerns the European assistants get the same preferential treatment as in the other European business concerns. Therefore, we feel that when the Government are coming forward with a scheme of expansion and are advancing large sums of money, there must be certain restrictions on the powers which are to be used by the Government in regard to the remittance of the interest on the investment made by Europeans. Therefore, we feel that when Government are taking powers under this particular section in regard to the borrowing power of the company and in regard to the increase in the capital of the company, they should also take powers to see that they have a right, if they so choose, to restrict the rights of this particular company in the matter of remitting the interest on the European investments here. We know that the Indian Iron and Steel Company has long been established here, and actually the dividend on their investment is five or six times more than the investment itself. Therefore, I feel that when such a special legislation is brought forward by Government, Government should extend a different treatment to this concern, apart from what is laid down in the Indian Companies Act. In view of the fact that this company is intended to serve the interests of the nation, I hope that Government would accept my amendment and see that the monies of this country are not sent out in this fashion.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am not accepting it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

In page 5, line 49, after "thereof" insert:

> "or for restricting the power of the Director to remit profit or interest or dividends to any foreign country."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

> "That clause 14, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 14, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 15 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Enacting Formula were added to the Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I put clause 1, the enacting formula and the long title to the vote of the House and they have been adopted. I am informed that for greater safety it may be necessary to put the preamble—I thought the preamble was included in the enacting formula and the long title. The question is:

> "That the preamble stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The preamble was added to the Bill.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I beg to move:

> "That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

> "That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy (Mysore): I stand here, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, to oppose the Bill in its entirety. I expected that the Government while thinking of this measure would act with commendable freedom from rigid ideas and exemplary alacrity keeping in view the progressive trends in Indian economy. But it is very unfortunate that the Government is following a very humdrum policy in a matter which is so closely bound up with the interests of the nation. Everybody is aware that the iron and steel industry is the backbone and key industry which is responsible for the industrial advance of any country. All

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students of economic history know that in England it is the iron and steel and coal industries that were responsible for the industrial revolution. So, when dealing with this vital industry, while taking decision on such a vital matter, we must have forethought, imagination and deliberation. Sir, to my mind, a measure which proposes to bring about a merger of these two companies is not only wrong and misconceived, but also not in the interests of the nation.

You know, that though there were recommendations by the Tariff Board a number of times and also subsequently by the Tariff Commission that amalgamation was necessary, the Government of India did not take any action on those recommendations. But when a foreign agency like the International Bank said that unless these two companies unite, unless these two plants are merged together, they would not advance the loan of Rs. 15 crores, the Government of India decided that these two companies should be immediately amalgamated. Further, the Government of India have also promised to pay a grant of Rs. 10 crores. It is unsecured, it has no maturity date and does not carry any interest till 1957. I want to know what is the idea behind all this. The preamble to the Bill says:

> "Whereas for the purpose of securing, in the interests of the general public and the Union, the efficient and economical expansion and working of the iron and steel industry in India, it is essential that the Steel Corporation of Bengal, Limited, and the Indian Iron and Steel Company, Limited, which are engaged in the manufacture and production of iron and steel, should be amalgamated;"

Does this amalgamation serve the interest of the general public? Does it serve the interests of the Union? Does it in any way help the efficient and economic functioning of this industry? Is it the only way of serving the interests of the Union? Is there no other way? Is amalgamation the only way according to the hon. Minister?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The best way.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Sir, I beg to differ from him. This is not the best way; this is the worst way. The best way would have been for the hon. Minister to come forward boldly with a measure to take the entire industry to the control of the Government. That would have been the ideal way; that would have served the interest of the nation. That would have been a much better way than the present measure. I do not know what reason made him not to follow that course. He has not said anything either in his preliminary speech, or in the course of the debate, or given any assurance that this industry would be nationalised in future in the interest of the nation.

After the amalgamation is effected, it is expected that the dividend prospects of the combined concern would brighten. At the shareholders' meeting Mr. Leslie Martin said that the dividends of the new concern would increase, and, therefore, the shareholders should support the move. Is it with a view to increase the dividends of the shareholders that the Government of India are amalgamating these two companies. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he has taken the interest of the consumer into consideration? So far they have not taken the interests of the consumers into consideration while fixing the retention prices of steel. The retention price of steel has been increased a number of times without paying due regard to the interest of the people who consume the products of this industry. According to Mr. Leslie Martin, "the higher retention prices were allowed by the Tariff Commission not because our actual cost had increased, but because the previous hypothetical estimates of works cost coupled with the erroneous assumption of production on which the retention prices were based in the 1951 reports were found to be unreliable." According to him the grounds on which the past calculations were based were wrong and after realising that the previous calculation was wrong the retention price of steel was raised subsequently. So from his own opinion the cost of production has not increased nor has there been any change in the establishment charges to warrant an increase in the price of steel.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member is only repeating the arguments which were put forward during the consideration stage. The third reading of the debate should be directed to show the reason why the whole Bill should be thrown out by the House. Anyhow I wanted to watch before I interceded what new arguments the hon. Member was going to advance. There is no point in repeating the same arguments.

Is the hon. Member likely to conclude in five minutes?

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: I would like to continue my speech after lunch.

The House then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The House re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, in the morning I was saying that the amalgamation of the companies is not the only way and is not the best way of bringing about a change, and as an alternative I was telling the House that the better way would be State control and ownership of this industry. England has given us a lead in this respect and it is better if we imitate the example of England.

Another point to which I want to draw the attention of the House is about the differential price system that is operating in this industry. There are not sufficient and strong grounds to give up the system of uniform price. Anyway I want to know why the differential rate should be charged, why the differential price should be in operation.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: We are giving Rs. 389 to Mysore.

Shri K. K. Basu: He is not so parochial as that!

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Then there is another point which is equally important. This year they have declared 10 per cent. dividend to the shareholders. It is a vital industry, a very important industry, and even 10 per cent. dividend to my mind seems to be somewhat high. It is really a high figure. According to the speech of Mr. Leslie Martin the dividends would be increased after the amalgamation. If the object of amalgamation is to increase the dividends the case for amalgamation goes away. And if that is the objective I do not think we can endorse this measure.

Of course the hon. Minister has said that with a view to increase the efficiency and expansion of this industry it would be advisable to bring about integration of these two companies. If we look into the story of these two companies we will understand that they have been terribly mismanaged till now, and after amalgamation the structure and the form of the organisation will remain the same except that both these companies are brought together. When the structure and the character of the companies remain the same and there is no change, how can we expect better management and higher efficiency in the production? So the best way, and the only way, of bringing about expansion of this industry, and the only way of rationalising this industry—of bringing about rationalisation in the management, production and in all aspects of this industry—is to bring this industry under State control and ownership. That is the only way, that is the real way, and that is the best way. Government should take this opportunity. The opportunity has come to the Government of its own accord. These two companies have made a decision that they will not remain as separate entities. The Government should take this opportunity and force a decision on these companies. The decision should be that these companies should agree for State ownership. This is a golden opportunity and the Government should not miss it.

By bringing these two companies under State control and ownership we would be launching a great policy of nationalisation. This would stand as a great landmark in the history of our industrialisation. The Government believes in nationalisation of key and basic industries. And iron and steel industry is a key industry. It is so important to our national economy. If the Government makes up its mind to nationalise this industry, then the interests of the nation will be better safeguarded. So I say that the present Bill as it stands is wrong, misleading and hollow and it can be, I say, conveniently, cleanly and expeditiously assigned to the waste paper basket.

Shri K. K. Basu: I must thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity for indulging in a post-mortem examination of the *fait accompli* of the merger of these two steel concerns in our country. The Government has chosen to take this unusual step of bringing forward a special legislation to legalise the merging of the two companies who have so long been taking a very recalcitrant attitude in spite of the recommendations of the Tariff Board quite a number of times. I believe this change in attitude on the part of these concerns has been brought about by the guarantee of the Government of a loan to be taken from the World Bank and by another undertaking that Government will come forward to supply the shortfall of accommodation that

[Shri K. K. Basu]

might be needed by this concern after the merger. Therefore, Sir, before we consider the implication of this legislation, we have got to judge to what extent this merger will help the production of the iron and steel of the country which is very important for the future industrialisation of a backward country like ours. We are going to have a planned economy. Whether it is mixed or pro-capitalist or otherwise, I am not going into it. I hope the Government will concede that the role of the Iron and steel industry is a very important one in the building up of other industries and to increase the national wealth of our country.

In this connection, the Government have come forward with a legislation with a very small explanatory note apart from the recommendations of the Tariff Board as to the ratio and the principle of the valuations and others and the cryptic speech of the hon. the Commerce Minister. These concerns, though possibly the Indians have a greater interest, have always been dominated by the British or the pro-British section of our people. By this kind of legislation the two companies have been merged and the rate of interest that they are going to enjoy seems to be rather high as has been expressed by a number of Members in the last few days and even today. This Iron and Steel Company had been enjoying a dividend of more than 10 per cent. It seems from the speech of the Chairman of this concern, the Indian Iron and Steel Co., that even after the merger, they expect to get a greater dividend; if not, at least this 10 per cent. which is the present prevalent rate. If our intention is that by this merger the production of iron and steel is going to be increased which will ultimately help the industrialisation of our country, we must consider whether this 10 per cent. of profit is going to be allowed. I went through the reports of the Tariff Board and it is urged there that these companies have impressed upon the Tariff Board that the steel concerns have their ups and downs and that they should have the same profit as they are having or more so the unrestricted profit. We feel if we follow the policy of industrialisation as the Government is indicating today and which they intend in the near future, there is always a possibility of this demand for iron and steel increasing because we know that even after the merger, it will fall much short of the demand.

It has been indicated by the hon. Minister and also by the Chairman that after this merger, the total output of all these steel plants will come to about 16 lakhs tons whereas our need even at the existing level is about 25 lakhs tons. That means even after reaching this level, which of course even the hon. Minister could not definitely say but he hoped that after this merger, there may be a possibility that his expectations will be fulfilled, the production may increase—and there is every likelihood of this. However, we will be short of production by 900 tons in our country. We all expect that if the planning works out well and with true spirit, there is every likelihood of this demand increasing because it is very necessary for other industrial needs. Therefore, I feel that there is no chance, in the immediate future, of these rates of profits by the companies going down. Therefore, I hope that Government will see that this attitude of getting unrestricted profit must be put a stop to. I do not say that these industries should be allowed to be wound up but I do say that their profits should be so restricted that we must see that these concerns should come to the aid of the nation as much as possible.

Then, if you stand for a planned economy, these basic materials are always expected to be put under the public sector. I do not know whether Government had any schemes themselves for establishing an iron and steel plant in our country. I do not know whether after the loan has been guaranteed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Government have given a go-by to the scheme. In that event I think the steps taken are utterly wrong.

The other point I would like to urge is the principle on which loans have been granted. Of course the hon. Commerce Minister the other day said that no specific terms had been put forward but it is in the stage of negotiations. I gather from the speech of Mr. Leslie Martin, Chairman of the Indian Iron & Steel Co., that because of this loan, the shareholders are going to get definite advantage. They will not have to pay interest for the accommodations whether 10 crores or more because that will depend on the shortfall of the accommodation we are able to get from the International Bank. As regards repayment, they have a guarantee from the Government that the steel price should be so increased that they are in a position to pay all this liability.

Sir, it has been urged by these companies that in comparison with international prices, the prevalent price of steel is low. But we have got to consider the conditions under which the steel plants work either in the USA or in the U.K. which are the two main steel exporting countries. Therefore we cannot put the price in that level nor say that what is prevalent in the United States should also be prevalent here. The main criterion with reference to this concern should be that they should get an average profit. The steel sold to the consumer should be at a price which will help the consumer and the industry to develop. Therefore I request the Government to reconsider their attitude before they finally commit to this.

Another point I would like to urge is about the question of the managing agency system. I do not know what, as some of the hon. Members have said with regard to the managing agency system, would be the condition. The hon. Minister said that the managing agency agreement with the Indian Iron and Steel Company will continue. If they say, as a result of the merger, the production to increase and the cost of production not to increase. We have not been supplied enough material to justify this conclusion. We do not know what will be the overhead charges of the managing agency system or whether the present European dominated system will continue. This is very important. If this concern is managed in the same way as these concerns were managed during the last 15 years in the case of S.C.O.B. and 40 years in the case of the I.I.S.Co., I do not think Government will be able to reduce the cost of production, apart from effecting some technical improvement.

About profits sent out, we know, as in some of the clauses we tried to impress upon the Government, and the Government knows very well, that large interests of non-Indians are involved in this concern. They have been continuing to stabilise their position in the management. When Government has come forward to give such a large advance, they must have a certain control about this profit earning capacity of this concern. If the Government does not put a restriction on the right of this concern to send out profits to foreign countries, the basic consideration of the Government, that is the interest of the nation, has to be judged with doubt. We know that these concerns have earned a profit which has practically exceeded whatever investment they have made. We know from the recent legislation in the States, the Money Lenders' Act, the principle has been accepted that whatever is the principal, you can take only that sum as interest. Why remit the profit to foreign countries, further? If the Government is not in a position,—as the Treasury Benches have often said that they have given an undertaking,—to confiscate foreign assets, they can, for the time being, freeze this interest and utilise that sum for nation-building purposes. We know that this capital was invested here in days which were not competitive, which were not normal, because they came with the support of the then Government. They have earned a profit which is more than what they have invested in these concerns. Therefore I feel that if the Government has certain rule-making powers,—our amendments in this regard have not been accepted,—Government must come forward and reconsider their position before they finally commit themselves to the granting of the loan to this concern.

Another point that I would like to urge is about the interest of the shareholders. I do not for a moment say that the shareholders' interest has not been properly looked after. But, I feel that this merger has been done without notice to the shareholders. They should be given some say before the final steps are taken. It may be said in reply, that the Ordinance is there, what else can we do. As you know, Sir, under the Companies Act, the shareholders themselves, before an amalgamation scheme is sanctioned, are allowed by the courts to give their opinion and sometimes they can get back cash instead of shares in a different company. There is no provision as to that. Government has said that in certain cases, it will determine in what way a fraction of a share will be allotted to a particular shareholder.

Another thing that I would like to know, about which no mention has been made, is about the shares in the S.C.O.B. of the Indian Iron and Steel Company. We do not know which shares will be held after the merger and what would happen to the other shares. Nothing has been said about that: whether they will be sold out, or re-allotted or whether the Government will take them over. We would like this definite information to have been given before we are called upon to give our verdict. I feel that Government should come forward with enough facts to allow us to give our opinion on this Bill.

[Shri K. K. Basu]

Another important matter that I would like to urge is this. We should find out and compare the total production of steel in the country by these two important concerns, the Tata Iron and Steel Co., and the merged Iron and Steel Co., before and after the merger. You will find, Sir, that these two firms will control the Iron and steel commodity, if I may be permitted to use that expression, in our country. It is so vital that unless these monopoly concerns are held under control, one day they will so use their power and there is every likelihood that they will flout and put off the gear the industrial programme of our country. More so, when we find that in this concern, through this proposal there is the possibility of the International Bank coming forward with money. Therefore, there is the possibility that, through the International Bank, the big international steel racket, combining with our industrialists who produce steel and working, with them as junior partners, act in a way most detrimental to the interests of the nation. Therefore, I feel that, though the merger, *prima facie*, may seem to be an improvement upon the existing system, enough facts have not been produced before the House which would warrant our wholehearted support to this. As far as we can gather from the speeches of the Chairman of the Indian Iron and Steel Co.,—whatever came out in the papers—and from the cryptic speech of the hon. Commerce Minister, we are rather doubtful that it is an improvement on the existing conditions and fear, from the point of view of the economy of our country, that this concern is likely to play an unholy role in the industrial programme of our country. Therefore, I feel that though the merger may look innocuous, this is a very important Bill and we should have been given more facts and more opportunity to discuss this Bill, and not given this opportunity of *post mortem* examination after the whole thing had been settled.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta North-East) *rose*—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The scope of discussion at the Third Reading stage is very limited. However, I did not want to interrupt the hon. Member, Each hon. Member will bear in mind that only those matters—not details—of general policy which have not been touched hitherto could be referred to.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: I shall confine myself merely to matters of general policy.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Which have not been touched upon and elaborated also.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: That I cannot guarantee absolutely.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Because, it will be mere repetition.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: I know that in a little while this Bill will be passed into law as far as our House is concerned. But, I owe it to those whom I have the honour to represent here to express myself very strongly against the provisions of this Bill.

In the Statement of Objects and Reasons, there is a very significant phrase which, I think, clearly defines the scope and character of this Bill. It refers to the larger interests of the steel industry in India, which have been taken into consideration primarily as far as the decision regarding amalgamation was concerned. Perhaps, Sir, I shall concede that as far as the steel industry in India as at present constituted is concerned, its interests are going to be subserved by this process of amalgamation. But, I want the Government of my country to be concerned not so much with the interests of the industry as it exists at the present moment, but with the larger economic interests of the country, the interests of the people as a whole. And I say that this Bill does not assist the interests of the people as a whole even though it might be argued that it does help the interests of the steel industry in this country. As far as the steel industry in this country is concerned, they have already welcomed the merger and so, there is no doubt about that. They are very happy. But, from the point of view of the people, whose larger interests should be the only consideration of the Government all the time, this Bill is far from satisfactory.

The history of this Bill and the Ordinance preceding it is also somewhat peculiar. It happened with a sort of precipitancy. It happened with such speed that we did not know what exactly was in the air. For example, it was on the 29th October, that the President promulgated the Iron and Steel Companies Amalgamation Ordinance, 1952. On the same day, a Government delegation left for Washington to negotiate a loan from the World Bank for the expansion of the country's steel industry. It was reported in the Press on the same day or the next day that the authorities of the two companies concerned were shortly proceeding to the United States of America for the same purpose. This combination of circumstances, this sudden exodus to the United States as far as our Government delegation and representatives of the commercial interests are concerned, is something anyhow I do not at all like. And then again, we find that the Tariff Commission also was given the job to decide as to whether the amalgamation should happen and in ten days' time the Tariff Commission examined the very complex problem, and produced its report. I know, Sir, of course, that from 1948 or so, this question of the desirability or otherwise of amalgamation had been discussed by the Tariff Board, the predecessor of the Tariff Commission, but at least, as far as the latest decision was concerned, I think the Tariff Commission should have taken a much longer time over it, and then, in that case, we could have been in possession of all facts regarding the desirability of the kind of amalgamation which is being proposed before us at the present moment.

3 P.M.

So we get this amalgamation decision and the two companies are to be combined, and the result, we are told, is that there is going to be a great improvement in the country's economic situation. Our steel production is still entirely unsatisfactory. We produce 1/15th of what Great Britain produces while we have seven times or more the population of that country. So, it is necessary for us to go ahead with such a basic matter as steel production in a very different manner from the manner which the Government has chosen.

Actually, soon after the achievement of independence, there was a feeling all over the country that the steel industry would be among the first industries to be nationalised. The steel industry, as you know very well because of your long parliamentary experience, has been molly-coddled for a very long time, and every kind of assistance that it was in the power of the country to give has been given to the steel industry, especially from those palmy days of 1927 when Tata Iron & Steel got tremendous assistance from our national movement. The national movement assisted the steel industry in the expectation that this basic industry would grow in such a manner that the people's interests would be safeguarded and consolidated. And after the achievement of independence, naturally the feeling was there that because of the proved ineptitude of the steel industry which, in spite of its long career, is still apparently unable to carry on without a great deal of foreign expert assistance—in view of this proved inability of the steel industry as at present constituted, there was a feeling that the country would take it over and move on to a fresh sphere of activity to see that our industrial and economic interests are consolidated, but then in 1948, Government enunciated its policy which said that for the time being, at any rate, the steel industry was not going to be nationalised. But even at that time, there was an idea that for about ten years or so, the *status quo* would remain and after ten years Government would reconsider the situation Now, it seems the Government's declaration of industrial policy in 1948 is thrown into the waste paper basket just as the Government's declarations in regard to the situation of foreign capital in this country made in 1948 have already been thrown into the waste paper basket and we are entering into commitments in regard to foreign capital which are extremely dangerous to the interests of our country. So, I say that in view of the expectations roused in the minds of our people regarding the nationalisation of the steel industry, what is now sought to be done is extremely unsatisfactory. And what is now sought to be done is really with a view to two things: one is to satisfy big business, the industrialists in our country, to satisfy the shareholders of the two companies concerned, as far as our present legislation is concerned; and secondly, to satisfy the demands and the interests of big business outside, *viz.*, the capitalism on which we are so far depending, of which the World Bank is a representative symbol and spokesman. The result, therefore, is that as a consequence of this Bill, we do not get any very remarkable expansion of our steel production. We certainly shall not be satisfied with the idea that by 1957 we might produce 16 lakhs tons of steel. That would not satisfy what our country needs. We want a plan to be thought of at the same time as we pass this sort of legislation. If we are going to think of a worthwhile plan regarding the recasting of the conditions of life of our people, surely that plan would require so much industrial development that the production of steel in this country has got to grow to very much more higher levels than are contemplated as far as this amalgamation is concerned, and for that reason we

[Shri H. N. Mukerjee]

have to move about in very different ways. We should not depend upon the private sector as we are committing ourselves to. In the body of our Five-Year Plan as well as in this kind of legislation I find there are some very dangerous examples of this continuing dependence upon the private sector which ultimately will not assist the development of our economy and which will make a mockery of our plan which has turned into a sort of tragic comedy.

As far as this legislation is concerned, I feel that a great deal that we ought to have been told about in more detail has not been told—especially with reference to the loan which is now sought to be secured from the World Bank. I do not like the precipitate haste with which this question has been dealt with, and I do not like that any Member of the Government should get up and say that things are done and decisions made somewhere else, that already we are committed to certain things abroad which cannot be explained in this House and therefore we should be expected to write on a clean slate and we should not be expected to ask questions even about what is going on behind the scenes. I say there are things going on behind the scenes today. Only this morning, you were in the chair when a question came up regarding negotiations with the Atena (Japan) Company which is, as those in the know could easily realise, only a subsidiary of an American company of the same name. And this company is in the course of negotiation with the Government of India for the construction of a blast furnace and that sort of thing. Only the other day, the World Bank sent a steel mission headed by a man called Mr. George D. Woods and Mr. George D. Woods who is at the same time a steel king of the United States, told press correspondents in this country that he was interested in his personal capacity, as the head of a big steel firm, in the U.S.A., in the possibilities of investment in Indian steel business. This sort of thing is going at the same time as our Ambassador in the United States talks about larger American financial participation in industrial undertakings inside our country, especially from those palmy days World Bank come and state to our correspondents that they have interested themselves in the investment of their money in Indian steel business. You might remember, perhaps, I asked a supplementary this morning in regard to the character of this so-called Japanese steel delegation which was led by an American citizen, and there was no reply because Government is not in a position to supply us with any information on that point.

But these are very dangerous indications. We do not quite know. Of course, as far as I am concerned, I have certain definite convictions in regard to the way the Government is going, but if they are wrong, it is for the Government to come forward and say that the grounds, the very tangible material, on which I am basing my allegations regarding what I consider to be the dangerous tendencies of Government policy, are wrong; it is for Government to come forward and say those materials are not right, they are baseless, but Government is not in a position to do so. And so, I say that this unholy alliance which is now being forged in a much more solid fashion than before between the Indian big business and American big business with the blessings of the Indian Government acting as an intermediary and playing the role of the priest for this unholy marriage, is something against which we have to raise our voice.

Then again, we find that the demand of the Indian steel industry as at present constituted, for an increase in its prices is going to be granted, but naturally if there is an increase in the prices of indigenous steel, which was also asked for by the World Bank mission, then surely that would, I am afraid, jeopardise very seriously the position of our medium and small industries on the one hand, and then again, on the other hand, it will place the foreign steel in a very favourable position as far as the market in India is concerned. So I say there are many dangerous indications in this Bill. I say this Bill does not satisfy the criterion, *viz*., the development of the economy of our country. I say it is only in the interests of the steel industry in this country, not in the interests of the economy of this country or of the people of this country. The Statement of Objects and Reasons is very explicit on that point. I say, therefore, that this is a Bill which we ought to throw out, knowing very well that in the present posture of parliamentary affairs, we are not in a position outright to reject this legislation.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not think I would be able to add materially to what I said yesterday in winding up the debate on the motion for consideration of the Bill, nor am I inclined to shake the convictions of the acting Leader of the Communist Party, which I have no doubt are very firmly grounded. But I do feel that some good has come out of this debate, and that it has drawn the acting Leader of the Communist Party from out of his shell, and enabled him to entertain us with a very brilliant appraisal of the Government's sins of commission and omission. I could not agree with all that he said or even with a portion of what he said. But I do say that I enjoyed his speech coming as it did with that flavour of Oxford and Cambridge, which I am afraid has been denied to a person like myself.

Shri S. S. More (Sholapur): You can go to Oxford still.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The one common element of the three speeches that have been made from the Opposition benches seems to be a very close partiality, affiliation or affection for the waste paper basket. One hon. Member said that the Bill should be consigned to the waste paper basket. Another hon. Member said that we are consigning our principles to the waste paper basket. Anyway, that seems to be the common feature in the thought process of the Members of the Opposition. I shall not be impertinent—and I cannot be, respecting as I do Parliamentary convention though I know my hon. friends on the opposite side do not—and far be it from me to say that I take whatever is said by the Opposition as something fit for the waste paper basket, but it does seem to me that the discussion was very entertaining and very enlivening; considering the material that came out from this side of the House, which was very dull and stodgy and considering that my speech was even worse than that delivered by my colleagues in the party, I am glad that something brilliant came from the Opposition. To that we ought to be grateful.

There are certain fundamental assumptions which the acting Leader of the Communist Party attempted to clarify, about which I cannot quarrel. I would only like to tell him that in the 1948 Industrial Policy Statement, all that the Government said was that the question of the industries in the public or what they called the first sector, would be reviewed after a period of ten years. Oftentimes two great minds posed on different sides of the arena look alike. I find that the acting Leader of the Communist Party is thinking in the same way as Mr. J. R. D. Tata, the Chairman of the Tata Iron and Steel Company. When he interpreted this question of review after ten years, Mr. Tata said that this might mean that the Government is going to take these industries over after ten years. The acting Leader of the Communist Party says that all this means is that the Government will take these over after ten years. There is a fundamental similarity in outlook, and an inevitable desire to come together, between the two extreme ends often. And that is why we find in this House an hon. Member in the Opposition quoting the Constitution and holding that this Bill is a challenge to the privilege conceded to the individual by the fundamental rights.

Shri K. K. Basu: Is it commercial logic?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Well, I know something about commerce. My hon. friend is apparently learning something about it, and I wish him well.

It is true and oftentimes we have heard that the capitalists in Germany had supported Hitler. It is not untrue even in this country sometimes capitalists have supported Communist candidates in election. Two opposing forces meet sometimes, and the two poles sometimes do meet. If that similarity is there, I do not grudge the interests concerned that similarity. And I do not even doubt the possibility of the capitalist and the Communist coming together in this country when they find that the Government is doing something which is not to the liking of either groups, and that is precisely what we are doing today. We refuse to be drawn towards anybody's bait, and we do not want to go into anybody's parlour. If we feel nationalisation is good......

Shri S. S. More: Have you got any parlour as such, Sir?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The hon. Member, I am sorry, has left his parlour far away, and he feels he is without a parlour, homeless without any roof overhead, wandering round the streets of Delhi. I am very sorry for him.

We refuse to walk into anybody's parlour. We shall nationalise if we feel nationalisation is good in the interests of the country, and that is for us the sole criterion for nationalisation. It is not that we are attached to any doctrinaire sentiment that nationalisation is good, nor do we believe in the sanctity of private enterprise. This Government, from that point of view, is happily placed. The interest of the

[Shri T. T. Krishnamachari]

country is the only guiding feature in determining its policies in such matters. If private enterprise does not pull its weight, and if it will not play the game if it is shown that it proves to be futile in our scheme of things and has no useful part to play, I shall recommend without any hesitation to my leader the Prime Minister that that particular industry should be nationalised.

You were good enough, Sir, to point out at the beginning of the debate that a discussion of nationalisation will not be within the scope of this Bill. Anyway, the matter has been raised, and that is why I had to deal with it.

The hon. acting Leader of the Communist Party said that this Bill is in the interests of the steel industry. It wants a lawyer to discriminate between the two sets of phrases. I am not a lawyer, and I have not got the ability to hair-split between words and to show what means what. My hon. friend is better equipped and he is entitled to do it. So far as I am concerned I feel that the wellbeing of the steel industry which I control as a part of the limb of the Government is a wellbeing for the interest of the people.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: It is the commonsense interpretation, not the legal interpretation. You read the sentence.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Commonsense is not the monopoly of those benches.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: You read it.

Shri S. S. More: But you have lost it.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May be, Sir. I have lost it when I became a Minister, but I have not sold it or otherwise put it into the hands of somebody thousands of miles away, I have sold it only to my people.

Shri Gadgil (Poona Central): Not mortgaged.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Tomorrow, if I cease to be a Minister, I think I can take it back, and the Chief Whip of my Party will give it back to me, my conscience, my commonsense and my freedom to do what I like. But in the meantime I can say I have sold it only to my people and not to somebody who is far away, not to some principle that was made public in 1849.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: We do not know to whom he is making a reference by this insinuation. (*interruption*). I do not like to disturb the temper of this House. If there are insinuations, we shall certainly reply in kind.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Fortunately today we are proceeding in very good humour. We must have a sense of humour, and I am sure all hon. Members have that in abundance. When one gives, one must also take. An hon. Member from this side said 'You are consigning your commonsense to somebody else', and the hon. Minister naturally says 'I consigned it nearer at home'.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am deeply grateful to you, Sir. But I can tell my friend the acting Leader of the Opposition that I do not want to wander so far away from my country as he is perhaps. There was a time when I probably drifted that way as he is doing now, but I found light earlier than he has done.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: You are a wiser man.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: That is neither here nor there.

So far as the question of loan or aid to this country is concerned, I maintain that no matter where we borrow from, no matter who comes to this country to negotiate a loan, the independence and sovereignty of this country is preserved intact and when that is jeopardized I for one and my leader will not be here trying to run the Government of this country. This freedom has been won at great cost, and nobody wants to go and barter it away for just a mess of pottage. This argument that we are going to America or somewhere else for the purpose of what is merely a mere matter of arranging for some foreign exchange for the purpose of selling our soul, is good as a political slogan, is good for word play on a forum, but it is not a fact, nevertheless. The question of the loan to this company was raised, and I would say once again in all humility—I am a great respecter of Parliamentary traditions—that I do not wish by any sleight of hand or by any trick to cheat Parliament of its rights and commit it to give a loan to a firm, to an individual or a group of concerns, without its sanction.

Parliamentary sanction has to be obtained for any such action. In the eyes of the Opposition, it might mean sanction from the Opposition. I know that we will never get it. We will not get anything from him except that small solace, that small assurance that my hon. friend, Mr. Basu, gave to me that if I bring a particular Bill, I can get it passed in half an hour. Perhaps he might do it in that particular case. if he does not change his mind, in the meantime. (*Interruption*) But generally parliamentary sanction does not mean the sanction of the Opposition. We know we will not get it. So we cannot give the assurance that we will in time obtain their consent to such a law. It is not possible. The fact remains if you are going to give a loan, the money should go into the Consolidated Fund and come out of it by means of appropriation which my colleague, the Finance Minister must make known to Parliament and its consent must be obtained. We can do nothing without it. You can pour all your wrath, all the molten steel that you can command from out of your mouth on our devoted heads at the proper time. That time is not yet. This Bill is an innocuous one. As I said at the time of moving the Motion for consideration, it merely seeks to implement the provisions of Sections 153, 153A and 153B of the Companies Act and nothing more. It is true we are in a hurry. The hon. the acting Leader of the Communist Party has asked, 'why this indecent hurry? Why should you have an Ordinance on the 29th of October? Why should your officials be allowed to leave on that day to the United States?' Yes, Sir, it is all part of a scheme. There is no conspiracy about it, no desire to hide. If we try to hide, the hon. gentlemen in the Gallery will make everything public. I say my hon. friend, the acting Leader of the Opposition quote from a newspaper......

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: He is not acting Leader of the Opposition. He is only acting Leader of the Communist Party.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am sorry. I beg your pardon. I recognise that the element of goodwill that I have towards the acting Leader of the Communist Party is not shared by my hon. friend.

My friends up in the Gallery would provide everything which the acting Leader of the Communist Party could use in his speech, and everything would be made public. Therefore, Sir, all that I can.........

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I ask the Minister: if statements are made in the House on the basis of certain reported items in the Press, can they be dismissed merely as quotations from scraps of papers or are they the ground for the Minister to say something tangible in reply about them?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I must submit, Sir, that that is an embellishment of what I have said. I am not capable of rising to those heights of decorating what I say with words which do not have the meaning that I have in mind.

Shri S. S. More: You do not know your capacity.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not venture to suggest that my friend, the acting Leader of the Communist Party is wrong. He is perfectly right in quoting from any scrap of paper, any printed matter, any newspaper, any journal that gives any information to him about the activities of the Government. That is what he has to do and that is what we were doing in the past. I do not grudge the hon. Member that. Only I say that if we should do something wrong, that weapon can well be placed in the hon. Member's hands by the newspapers and can be used very effectively against us.

I do not want to prolong this debate, even though I probably would like to speak a little more; because after all, the best form of flattery is imitation. I attempt to imitate the acting Leader of the Communist Party and so flatter him and feel that if I am not as good a speaker as he is, I might become half as good. But unfortunately, nature rebels and I am unable to speak. I do not think that any further explanation is needed on the part of Government. I therefore hope the House will pass this Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

CONSTITUTION (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Law and Minority Affairs (Shri Biswas): I beg to move:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

This Bill, as hon. Members know, had been referred to a very large and representative Select Committee and the matter was gone through very fully by the Select Committee. I do not think, therefore, if hon. Members have read the report of that Committee, very much is called for from me in explanation of the amendment which the Select Committee have thought fit to recommend.

This Bill deals with Article 81 of the Constitution, not all the clauses of that article but only clause 81(1)(b) which deals with the question as to the number of members to be allotted to each of the constituencies into which the different States of the Union are to be divided for the purpose of elections. The clause as it stands now runs in these terms:

> "For the purpose of sub-clause (a), the States shall be divided, grouped or formed into territorial constituencies and the number of members to be allotted to each such constituency shall be so determined as to ensure that there shall be not less than one member for every 750,000 of the population and not more than one member for every 500,000 of the population."

In the form in which the Bill was introduced the amendment which was suggested was a change in the figures both as regards the upper and the lower limits of representation of population. Instead of 750,000 the figure of 850,000 was suggested and instead of 500,000, 650,000 was suggested. What the Select Committee has done is to do away with the upper limit altogether. You will remember, Sir, that when this Bill was before the House, it was argued that there was no necessity whatsoever for altering these figures. In other words, in spite of the fact that the last census, of 1951, showed an increase in the total population of the country, it was still possible to retain these upper and lower limits as they were; it was possible to have the constituencies delimited in such a way that each of them will keep within these limits. On the other hand, the Government view was that having regard to the increase in population, the average would work out at something like 750,000 per constituency, instead of 7.2 lakhs, as was actually the case during the last general elections. Now, if 7½ lakhs was to be the average, it was obvious that there might be some constituencies in which the number would exceed the average. In that case it would not have done to retain the upper limit at 7½ lakhs. Even if there was one such constituency in which the upper limit was likely to be exceeded, you had to provide for a higher figure. From that point of view that was done. The argument, on the other hand, was that it may be possible to keep within the existing limits and so to form the constituencies. If, as I said on the last occasion, we were writing upon a clean slate, it should no doubt have been possible with the census figures of 1951 so to devise constituencies as to keep within these limits. However, Sir, the matter was considered very fully by the Select Committee and a suggestion was made that the purpose would be served if we did away with the upper limit altogether. This would not only enable us to form the constituencies with due regard to the increase in population as disclosed at the last census, but it will avoid the necessity of periodical amendments of this sub-clause. At every census the figures might have to be changed if we retain an upper limit. If we do away with the upper limit that necessity would no longer be there. From that point of view that was the only amendment which was made by the Select Committee. I suggest that the House may accept this without any further elucidation from me.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy (Salem): The Select Committee has taken this view that although the amendment proposed in the Bill will be sufficient to solve the immediate difficulty, it is desirable to avoid the necessity of amending this Article periodically after every census. My respectful submission to this House is this, that the periodical revision of the strength of the constituencies cannot be avoided. If you kindly look into the constitution of the U.S.A., you will find they started with 65 members. Now, the House of Representatives contains about 445 members. There was a provision in the Constitution for the periodical revision of these constituencies after every census. You will be pleased to see that other federal constitutions also have similar provisions for the periodical revision. I do not see how this periodical revision can be avoided because population is going on increasing. In some places, there may be even decrease. In the case of West Bengal, there has been an increase in population not necessarily due to biological reasons but by reasons of political animosity or may be religious frenzy. The very introduction of the passport system has struck terror into the hearts of many Hindus living in East Bengal and lakhs and lakhs of people have come here. There has been a sudden onrush of people into West Bengal.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now, I may state immediately for the hon. Member's consideration that the original Bill contemplated to amend clause 1(b) of Article 81. The hon. Member may kindly recollect that there was an attempt to refer clause 1 of Article 81 also to the Select Committee for consideration, but the House did not accept it. That is, the House sent the Bill with five hundred as the maximum number, and the constituenties alone to be delimited. Therefore, any further argument is out of place. The principle has been accepted that we ought not to increase the number 500. The question is that within this framework, whether it should be between 500,000 and 750,000 or 650,000 and 850,000 and so on and so forth, or whether the upper limit may be removed. Therefore, the hon. Member cannot go into the question once again as to whether 500 ought to be increased or not.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I am accepting that position, Sir. Now, what I am addressing the House upon is this, whether this periodical revision can be avoided.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: For what purpose?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: It may be for the purpose of increasing the number of seats in a particular State, or it may be for the lowering of the number of seats in a particular State. For instance, there has been a sudden influx from East Bengal into West Bengal. The latest census figures disclosed that there has been an increase. I am reading......

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This does not touch the States at all. This Bill refers only to the House of the People.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: But it will affect the representation from the States to the House of the People.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Within the framework of 500.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: There will be internal adjustments. What would be the minimum that should be prescribed?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is no good referring to the fact that in the United States, they started with 65 in the House of the Deputies or Representatives, the Lower House, and they went on increasing to 445. This is not in order; it is out of place.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I referred this only to this effect, namely that periodical representation is provided in other constitutions as well and it cannot be avoided. Within the maximum limit of 500, still periodical revision is necessary.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What is the hon. Member driving at?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: What I am driving at is this. The Select Committee has recommended that the upper limit need not be there. What are the consequences that flow therefrom, that is what I am driving at. Is the position tenable? Can we have only a lower limit and no upper limit? What will be the consequences of such a position? That is what I am submitting, Sir.

Shri Biswas: May I interrupt the hon. Member and point out that the limiting factor is already provided for in sub-clause (c), where it states:

> "The ratio between the number of members allotted to each territorial constituency and the population of that constituency as ascertained at the last preceding census of which the relevant figures have been published shall, so far as practicable, be the same throughout the territory of India."

That imposes the upper limit automatically.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: What is the ratio, is the point.

Shri Biswas: The ratio must be the same throughout the country.

Shri Gadgil (Poona Central): Population divided by 500.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Between States *inter se* there will be alteration in the number of seats. That is what I am presently submitting to you, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What follows? Every link must be connected with every other link in the argument.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I had moved an amendment that 500 is not enough. Today, I have submitted an amendment that the upper limit should be fixed at 850,000. It is on that point that I am arguing.

Now, the recommendation of the Select Committee is that the words 'not less than one member for every 750,000 of the population' shall be omitted. Now, if this is omitted, what happens? In the original section, the words 'not more than one member for every 500,000' alone will be left. According to the recommendation of the Select Committee, the minimum will be 500,000 and there will be no maximum fixed. My humble submission is that if this minimum is raised to 600,000, States with larger population will get larger representation according to the population basis in the House of the People.

Take for instance, Part B States. According to the last delimitation, 720,000 was taken to be the minimum and it is upon that basis that the seats were allocated. Let me take Part C States. For instance, Bilaspur has got only 103,000. That gets a seat; Coorg 107,000......

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: They are Part C States. It is not on the basis of population; that is under Article 82.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: With regard to Part C States, the consequence will be this. You will see that on the basis of 7·2 lakhs there has been over-representation in some and under-representation in regard to certain other States even in the case of Part A States.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: But that will be rectified now.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I am stating this for the benefit of the Delimitation Commission, so that it may go on record.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is another Bill relating to delimitation. We shall go into that then.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: True, but what I am submitting is that the minimum is too low and it should be raised. The overall increase in the population of India is 12·5 per cent. but in certain States it is more and in certain others it is less. For instance, it has been 14·4 per cent.........

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Whatever the State percentage may be, the number of seats for a particular State would not go down on that account. The population of the whole of India divided by 500 will be the guiding factor for calculating the number of seats for a particular State. In other words, the population of India divided by 500 will be the unit by which the population of a State should be divided to arrive at the number of seats that that State should get.

Shri N. Somana (Coorg): The provision in Article 81(c) makes the position clear. It says:

> "The ratio between the number of members allotted to each territorial constituency and the population of that constituency as ascertained at the last preceding census of which the relevant figures have been published shall, so far as practicable, be the same throughout the territory of India."

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: What I am referring to is the internal arrangement between State and State.

Shri Biswas: My hon. friend is labouring under a misapprehension. He seems to think that if the population is less than 5 lakhs in a particular constituency, it will not get a single member even. Now, that is not so.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: May I go on, Sir? The position is that the overall increase in the population has been 12·5 per cent. Take Madras State.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: In regard to what the hon. Minister said just now, the hon. Member's point seems to be that 5 lakhs should be increased to 6 lakhs, so that if the population is less than 6 lakhs, that particular State should not get a seat.

Shri Biswas: States with less than 6 lakhs population will never get it.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: The average number of voters for a constituency has varied in Madras between 3 lakhs 21 thousand and 3 lakhs 73 thousand or roughly in terms of population it has varied between 6 lakhs 43 thousand and 7 lakhs 43 thousand. The population of Madras has increased by 14·4 per cent. or roughly 1/7 on the basis of the 1951 census. Therefore, my point is that if we proportionately increase the total population strength of each constituency, it will vary between 7 lakhs 35 thousand and 8 lakhs 53 thousand. In the case of the delimitation that has taken place, there is a margin of 2·5 lakhs as between 5 lakhs and 7·5 lakhs and if we want to maintain that margin, then in view of the fact that there has been an overall increase of population I would request that the minimum be raised to 6 lakhs and the maximum to 8 lakhs. I shall explain why I am insisting upon the maximum being fixed at 8 lakhs. I find from the report that they merely state:

> "At the same time, the Committee wish to record that the upper limit of one member for every 750,000 of population should not as far as practicable, be exceeded."

What is this pious wish? Unless a limit is fixed, how can the Delimitation Commission work it out in actual detail? Therefore, I submit that the limit of 7·5 lakhs should be increased to 8 lakhs.

[PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA *in the Chair*]

Therefore, accepting the position that the number of seats is not going to be increased, I would suggest that the minimum should be raised from 5 lakhs to 6 lakhs and the maximum should be fixed at 8 lakhs instead of 7·5 lakhs.

Shri Gadgil: I very much welcome the report of the Select Committee and the recommendation made therein. I think that the recommendation that has been made avoids the necessity of changing the Constitution every now and then as a result of an increase in population. Now, there are two ways in which, as has been suggested, the growth of population can be adjusted with the number of seats in the Central Legislature. One is what has been proposed in the Select Committee report, and the other is to increase the number of Members of the House of the People. So far as the public opinion that has been ascertained and circulated to most of the Members of this House is concerned, definitely the majority view is in favour of keeping the number of 500 as it is, and I think that that is perfectly right. It has been suggested by no less a person than Mr. N. M. Joshi—a person for whom I have very great regard and with whom I have worked for a number of years—that the number should be increased proportionately. If we follow that principle, there will be no end to it. It has been suggested that because the House of Commons consists of 640 Members there is no harm in increasing the number of 500 by another 100 or so. Now, I am opposed to this suggestion not only on the ground of increased cost and perhaps lack of accommodation, but on theoretical grounds also. I should say that on democratic grounds also I am opposed to any increase in the number of Members in the House of the People. In the first place, ours is a federal Constitution and there are 23 State Assemblies for which more than 3,000 people have to be elected. So, it is not as if this career, or this opening, or this chance of public service is restricted to about 500 people. That is not so. There are, as I said, 23 State Assemblies where normally all grievances can be ventilated; all programmes and projects intended for the progress of the people living in the respective areas can be considered, discussed and executed. In a federal Constitution, only those subjects which are of central and federal importance can be discussed in the Central Parliament. I am therefore of the view that the restriction of the number to 500 is on the whole good. Further if there are more than 500 Members—let us say there are 550 or 600 Members—then the proper type of atmosphere which is conducive to a good debate will be lacking. In the first place, today our experience shows that many people do not get any chance. They generally complain that although it is a democratic House, yet there is no fair opportunity to many of the people who are anxious to have it. If anything, this difficulty will increase if the number is raised to 600. Further, there is a psychological atmosphere which is very much conducive to a quiet and dignified discussion of many an important problem when there are very few Members. If there are 50 Members, it is really a deliberation; if there are 500, it is an endless debate.

Therefore, we have to weigh the matter of quality also. It is not the number of speeches that counts, but the quality that counts. Therefore, if for a good speaker you give an hour it will be better than giving fifteen minutes to four speakers. So, from every point of view, whether of the quality, whether of the existence of proper democratic atmosphere or for a thorough and dispassionate consideration of any important problem, I think this limit of 500 is the optimum in my humble opinion.

Now it has been suggested that if the maximum is increased, or there is no limit on the number of the population for a particular constituency, the contact for the member will be very difficult. Now, as I see, the population

[Shri Gadgil]

increases, but the area of this country remains the same. So what really happens is that in a particular area where there were at the last census one lakh of people, there may be one lakh and ten thousand in another ten years, if we assume the increase to be ten per cent. If the increase is less it might be less. But the area remains the same. What are the media of contact? Public meetings, informal conferences, interviews, correspondence—these are the well known methods by which elected representatives try to keep contact with their constituents. Now I want to know whether, so far as public meetings are concerned, the raising of the limit of the maximum in any particular constituency is going to affect it: or even the second method of informal conferences, or for the matter of that interviews as well? Perhaps there would be some increase in the correspondence—I do concede. But that is all to the good. I am not disparaging anybody, but there are very few members of any elected legislature who take to their duties so conscientiously and who care to reply every enquiry that they receive, or look to every grievance that may be submitted by any of their constituencies. I am, therefore, of the view that the line of criticism adopted by Shrimati Renu Chakravartty is not correct.

On the other hand the constituencies today are much less in extent. In 1934 when I was first elected to the Central Assembly I had to visit seven revenue districts, East and West Khandesh, Nagar, Nasik, Sholapur and Satara—extending from the south bank of Narbada to the north bank of Krishna, practically one third length of this great continent. The voters in these seven districts were about a lakh, but the area was so big that it was not possible within the short space of two or three months prior to the election, which is the most important period, to visit all the places. Now at the last General Elections my constituency was partly urban and partly rural. The City of Poona had four State constituencies. Altogether, it was possible for me to cover the most important places in my constituency within forty-eight hours and that I did. My hon. friend Mr. More must have had the same experience. Comparing the position that obtained before we adopted our Constitution, what is the position today? The areas of the constituencies are so small and that of urban constituencies smaller still that it is very easy to reach all the important places within it in a short space of time. It is impossible for a representative to meet every single voter in his constituency. It is an ideal which in no democracy has ever been achieved. If we take the whole thing in a proper sense, if we take a commonsense view, I think if we meet the important people in any constituency that is quite enough. If we meet important institutions in the constituency that is quite enough. If we occasionally address public meetings where your opponent does not create trouble it is all to the good. So, an increase in the number, does not necessarily mean an increase in the area. Therefore, all that argument about keeping contact, in my humble opinion is not correct.

Now, so far as the minimum is concerned, I think we cannot change it. If the family planning which is in the air succeeds, then after two hundred years, possibly we will have an opportunity of changing the minimum. Otherwise the minimum laid down is quite just and fair. Now, going through the views expressed, I find that most of the State Governments and most of the Congress Committees are in favour of keeping the number of 500 intact and increasing the minimum and maximum. Only the Government of Orissa and some officers of Madhya Pradesh are against it. But their line of argument, into which I need not go now, is not very correct. So the recommendation of the Select Committee as it is is really good and should be acceptable. There is no big principle involved in this at all. The course adopted is this. The population of each State is determined. Taking the number 'x' as the population of the country, it is divided by 500. The population of each State is known and according to their population the number of seats will be allotted to them. Within the State the same number will hold good, so that there will not be any gerrymandering of the constituencies, with a view to giving advantage to this party over the other party. Let us therefore accept a principle which is practical in working and at the same time which is equitable. I, therefore, submit that this House will be perfectly justified in accepting this principle which will avoid the necessity of every now and then changing the Constitution on account of the increase in population, which I do not think will ever be put a stop to knowing the things as I do, at the present moment.

Shri B. C. Das (Ganjam South): I consider that this amending Bill is a retrograde step. It is an encroachment upon the franchise rights of the people. I would like to explain why I consider it to be so.

We all know that democracy ought to be a government of the people by the people for the people. But all the people cannot be brought into one common place for legislative purposes. That is why we have got government by representation—we have got parliaments where representatives of the people gather. This Bill seeks to curtail the representation of the people. A peoples' representative in order to discharge his duties properly, effectively, has to keep in constant and close touch with the electorate, with his constituents. How can he keep in close touch with his constituents? He has to move with the people, answer their letters, feel the throb in their hearts, know their hopes and aspirations, and realise how they want things to take shape. So also, the representative as the leader of the people must try to reach the people, educate them and mould their opinion. In order to fulfil these duties and obligations a representative must have a small constituency. We know that in a large constituency, it is not possible for any person to be in close touch with people, to educate them, to understand them and mould their opinion. In such a case what happens is that the representative loses touch with the people and consequently his actions are not in tune with the hopes and aspirations of the people. This is the tragedy of the modern bourgeois parliamentary democracy.

4 P.M.

Here the amending Bill puts a ban on the functions of the representative in a way which should not be desired by this House. I would like to illustrate my point a little further. Now 5 lakh to 7½ lakh people can send one representative to this House. It is too unwieldy. And we all know that it has become very difficult for us to keep in touch with our constituents. People do not understand us. If we try to move and work with the people we are not able to discharge our duties in Parliament properly. So, if we want to keep in touch with the people and at the same time discharge our responsibilities to Parliament properly, our constituencies should have to be very small so that we can keep in close touch with our constituents. But here, in the name of sacrosanctity of the number five hundred for Parliament, we are going to enlarge the constituencies. That is very dangerous. I see a dangerous symptom here. The hon. Member who preceded me tried to explain that this amending Bill has been introduced with the sole purpose of increasing efficiency in parliamentary work. I am sorry I can not accept his contention. He has failed to impress me. He wants to say that if the number is small, people can put their heads together and can effectively discharge their duties. If that contention is right, then just ten or fifteen persons in a Cabinet can discharge their duties much better than in a Parliament with so many Members. But what happens? The people who come and discuss and debate here must be the representatives of the people, must know the people, must know the desires of the people, must know the problems of the people. How can they know the problems of the people, the hopes and aspirations of the people, the needs and desires of the people if the constituency is very large? That is why the constituencies should be as small as possible. But here that has not been done.

Another danger I see is this. Those people who decry the suggestion for raising the number of seats in Parliament are, I am afraid, thinking in terms of big money. It is possible for a man with a large amount of money to contest elections in a large constituency. It is also possible for a votary of big money to delude people, take recourse to modern devices of propaganda, organise big meetings and rallies. But he will not move and work in close touch with the people, in which case he will be employing dubious methods of deluding public opinion and misguiding the public. That is possible. That is why my hon. deputy leader, Shrimati Renu Chakravartty gave a minute of dissent. It was described by some as not at all in defence of democracy. When she was justifying her stand in a minute of dissent in defence of democracy, some papers commented that she was not defending democracy at all. But they forgot what democracy is. Democracy to be defended must be understood properly. Democracy must be taken into account. Democracy cannot be understood without the people. Ours is a House of the People. How many people does each Member represent? If a Member represents more people than he has the capacity to represent, then his representative capacity—the quality of his representative capacity—declines, changes. That is our contention. Democracy changes in quality when the quantity changes. When a large number of people are represented by a single person, that person cannot call himself a true representative of the people. That is the tragedy of it. Suppose the five hundred Members who now constitute this House are re-elected by one single constituency of the whole of India, can they call themselves the true representatives of India? Those people who cast their votes in favour of the five hundred Members will not understand them, will not know who they

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are, what they stand for, what kind of people they are, what integrity they have, whether they can work for them and represent their aspirations. That is a fact. That is why we should see that the people of India must be able to choose their representatives. They will not be able to do so, they cannot send their representatives if they are asked to choose in a very large constituency. If they are asked to choose in a large constituency they will not have the scope of knowing the representative whom they are going to send. That is one factor which our friends forget.

Another question is: why should we consider this number five hundred as sacrosanct? In the British Parliament, in the House of Commons they have 640 Members. Britain is a very small country compared to India. You ought to know also that in Britain parliamentary democracy has a tradition, has a long past. There 75,000 people send one representative. But here in India we want to raise the maximum to 8 or 9 lakhs. There is no limit to the maximum. It is a pity that while in England, where there is a tradition of democracy, we find that 75,000 persons are entitled to send one representative to Parliament......

Shri Barman (North Bengal—Reserved—Sch. Castes): We have the State Legislatures.

An Hon. Member: And municipalities.

Shri B. C. Das: They have also got their municipalities and County Councils. That is a different thing. Our municipalities are different in nature. My friend should understand that their municipalities have legislative power. They have more functions than our municipalities in India. If you examine it with other countries you see how the representative capacity, the representative power, the franchise of the people has been curtailed by the Constitution of India. Even under the Constitution 7½ lakhs of people are asked to send one representative. That is, the people's right to represent has been curtailed, diluted, toned down or watered down by the enlargement of constituencies.

I am glad the province to which I belong, namely Orissa, has also supported my contention. I would like to read out a portion of what the Orissa Government say:

> "There cannot be the least doubt that the amendment, as proposed, affects rights recognised in article 81(1) (b) as substantive rights. To increase the overall limit of five hundred in article 81(1) (a), as a result of the increase in population, will be nothing more than furtherance of these rights and will not prejudicially affect the other rights recognised under the Constitution."

The veteran labour leader Mr. N. M. Joshi is also of the opinion that we should increase the number of Members in Parliament and not try to enlarge the constituencies. He says, "At present the majority of the electorate are not only poor but are uneducated or illiterate. They are not also well organised into political parties. This state of things is disadvantageous from the point of view of promotion of democracy. The Government, therefore, should not have attempted readjustment by increasing the number of persons in each constituency to be entitled to one seat and thus enhance the already unwieldy character of the constituencies. The present maximum number of five hundred seats fixed by the Constitution for the House of the People is not small, but considering the total population of the country, the number of 500 would easily bear a substantial increase." And he also pointed out that in the British House of Commons they have 640. India is a large country and the number can be increased. And also about the efficiency he has said that efficiency can increase not by making more speeches but by the quality of speeches delivered. And quality of speeches will improve if we have got living touch with the people. We should understand their problems, then alone the quality of speech will improve. If we have a large number of Members as we have today and if we have no touch with the people, speeches will fall flat on the people. Without touch with the people it will be an unrealistic approach and we will not be able to solve the problems of the people and Parliament will function against democracy. And one may ask how many times should we increase the number of Members in Parliament. He gives the answer, "After 20 or 30 years the general electorate will become educated and better organised." Supposing people are educated, people are politically advanced, then in a larger constituency people can send one representative understanding his merits. But in the present state of India, when most of the people are illiterate, uneducated, when political parties have not struck deep roots in the people, it is difficult for people to pick and choose and send their proper representatives. So, enlargement of these constituencies will only help those people who have got vested interests, who can bamboozle the public mind; such people alone thrive by this amendment, not others.

I was surprised when I heard the hon. Member, Mr. Gadgil, was advocating this home planning in connection with this Bill. That is the attitude towards people. They preach Birth Control, because they want the "Indian hordes", as the Americans call us, decrease. The Americans are advocating decrease of our population, through Birth Control, famine, pestilence and strifes. The detestable Malthusian theory is influencing my friends, opposite.

Mr. Chairman: Family planning is hardly relevant here.

Shri B. C. Das: He mentioned it.

Mr. Chairman: What he mentioned was that after 200 years, it may be possible that the number of voters may be less than 50,000.

Shri Biswas: We are planning for the House of the People at present.

Sardar Hukam Singh (Kapurthala-Bhatinda): Only there should be one marriage, the old people should not marry again.

Shri B. C. Das: We should think that every man is potentially great, every man can rise to his full stature and can help progress. We think Indian humanity ought to increase and enrich the land. Those who detest the common people advocate birth control. They say that population is the cause of our poverty. That is their theory. That is why I say that the anti-democratic attitude of our friends, opposite, is responsible for sponsoring this amendment. They should not have brought in this amendment but should have amended the first clause in the same Article and should have increased the number of seats in Parliament. Instead of doing that they have tried to curtail the franchise of the people and it is dangerous. I sound a note of warning to this House that if this House wants to function as a true representative of Indian humanity, it should so conduct itself, it should also so enlarge the franchise of the people that those who come to this House will be the real, true representatives of the people who function here as the champions and leaders of the people of India

Shri Achuthan (Crangannur): This is the first amendment Bill in this House after the Constitution has come into force by which legislation affecting our Constitution is introduced and I must thank the Select Committee for having become wiser when they recommended that it may be passed as now amended. My hon. friend on the Opposition side was vehemently arguing that unless representation in this House is more than the present 500 or 1000, you cannot have actual representation of the people. I cannot understand it. If he argues in that light, what will be the minimum number? Is it 5,000, 50,000 or 75,000? I do not know. Moreover I think they are in the habit of thinking that Members of this Legislature alone are competent to guide the destinies of this country. I do not know in what way it is correct. There are State Legislatures, there are *panchayats*, there are District Boards, moreover our common man is as intelligent I may say as many of our hon. Members who are in this House. So, there need not be any apprehension that our common man in India does not know how to approach the Government, how to guide the policy of the Government, etc. If we are going to act upon the point of increasing this number of 500, we are really embarking upon a very undesirable proposition. As it is, it appears to my mind that the Select Committee has done a very wise thing and after every ten or fifteen years we need not have the trouble of discussing the matter here and stating that the number must be either increased or decreased.

My friend Sree Das argued that unless proper standards are maintained, the country's demands cannot be met. I think the Central Legislature's task is not to go into details, minute details of the needs and wishes or requirements of the country. There are competent men in the State Legislatures. There are Committees there where they will discuss all matters. Even here if these 500 Members are asked to discuss all the 365 days, they must be here. As Mr. Gadgil has pointed out, if a Member is not given a chance to speak even now during the second session of the Parliament, it is due to the reason that the number of Members is large. Unless we do effective work not only by ourselves alone but by the representatives of the people in the State Legislatures, Committees, *Panchayats*, District Boards, and I mean through party organisations also, our democratic system cannot be developed. That is the experience throughout the world. Even in England it is so. They have

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more than 600 members in the House of Commons. It is a country where this system was in progress for centuries. They even sit during the night for discussions. So, unless we determine the maximum as 500 in number and see that this maximum limit of population for each seat is removed from this article, there would be ever the necessity of discussing this matter after every census and political parties may try to make capital out of it. So I congratulate the Select Committee in removing this maximum limit of population in this article.

I was not able to understand when my hon. friend, Mr. Ramaswamy who has got some standing at the bar, said that we must see that this minimum is raised, and C States may not have more representation. The exigencies at that time brought those Part C States into existence. That cannot be a ground to say that these States must continue. They must be economic units. That is no reason for saying that the minimum must be raised from 5 lakhs to 6 lakhs and the maximum must be fixed somewhere at 8 lakhs or 8½ lakhs. Therefore, I congratulate the Select Committee which consisted of our experienced Law Minister and our experienced Deputy-Speaker. They have done well in arriving at this conclusion and setting at rest at least this question for some 10 years. By this proposal, you will be ensuring that only the true representatives of the people, who are in the political field, who know the people and who know the conditions will be returned to this sovereign House.

Sardar Hukam Singh: I am sorry I cannot support this Amending Bill.

Shri S. S. More: Why should you be sorry?

Sardar Hukam Singh: Because really I would have liked to support; therefore, I am sorry.

My reasons are different from those which have been given by my hon. friends who have already spoken. We are committed, as was observed by our Deputy-Speaker, so far as the principle is concerned, that we will keep the number 500 intact and we cannot increase it. Even then, we can see whether, without having recourse to the amendment of the Constitution, we can have the same objective achieved by other methods. I think that the Constitution that we have passed, we should consider as sacrosanct. I do not say that when we feel that there are certain hurdles in the way of achieving our objectives which we have in our view, we should hesitate to bring in certain amendments that we desire, or are necessary, for the progress of the country. But, when the same hurdles can be crossed over by other methods, then, we should pause and think whether that would not be the better course of achieving the same objective, without having to amend the Constitution.

The present position is, that even the report of the Select Committee says:

> "Although theoretically it may be possible to readjust the representation of the constituencies within these limits, the Committee consider that practical administrative difficulties will stand in the way of such readjustment."

So far as I can think out, these practical administrative difficulties would be, perhaps, somewhere; we might have to break up the boundaries of tehsils or the boundaries of districts for achieving this object. If we look at the constituencies that we have already delimited there are quite a number of them where these limits or boundaries have been broken up. It would not be a new thing. The hon. Minister, when he spoke, said that if we had a clean slate, it was possible to achieve that. But when we are going to delimit the constituencies, if we have not got a clean slate, if we cannot formulate districts, *tehsils* and *thanas* anew, at least we can make these constituencies afresh and even if certain limits or boundaries are to be broken up, there will be no practical difficulties. That could easily be done.

Even making that report, they recommend:

> "At the same time, the Committee wish to record that the upper limit of one member for every 750,000 of population should not, as far as practicable, be exceeded."

And even when it is possible to readjust all this within the present framework, it has been argued that with the increase in population, next time, perhaps, it may not be possible and then we might feel the necessity of either amending the Constitution or taking some other course. If the present difficulties can be crossed over, why should we worry to amend the Constitution just at present and place an obstacle for future Parliament. Perhaps they may think in a different way. They may not consider that this is the best course. Why should we limit their discretion just at present? If the difficulties that are experienced now can be resolved in an easier way, we should try to do that. So far as I can make out, these are the only administrative difficulties and therefore we should not hesitate to solve them in that method.

It has been argued here by my hon. friend Mr. Gadgil, who, unfortunately, is not here now, that we get very rare opportunities in a House of 500 just at present and if we increase the number, there would perhaps be rarer opportunities to speak. This is all right. But, for the present, we are not advocating that. Even then, there is another side. He has only looked at the chances that we get inside the House to speak and put forward our point of view. But the other side also is not less important: the contacts that we have to keep with the electorate. He referred in a very light mood that we have to hold conferences, and that we have to carry on correspondence with our electors. He was of the opinion that very few of us are able just at present to reply to all the correspondence that we get and communicate with the electors, who care to write to us. But, that should not be any reason: because we fail in our duty just at present, that cannot be the cause for saying, let us ignore it altogether. That is also a part of our duty and we have to attend to that. If some of us have neglected that duty, we should rather make it up. And, the counsel that should come from an elderly statesman like Mr. Gadgil is that we should pay greater attention to this side of the work also. The duty that we think is enjoined on us and that which we think is proper should be the guiding principle and not the breaking of it. The principle is not that we should not care for that because already we are not corresponding with the electors very much. Then, about the conferences he said that it is not necessary that the area would be increased with the increase in the number of electors, and that there would be same number of conferences. When the number is increased, certainly, there would be a demand for a greater number of conferences and the Member will have to go round and meet these people whose number has increased.

Already, if I were to relate the dimensions or the area of the constituency which I represent, it consisted of three districts. It was more than 200 miles long and naturally had the maximum number of electors that was permitted under the law. As was apparent from the figures that were given the other day, if the number of representatives in P.E.P.S.U. is to remain the same—that is only by way of illustration—then, certainly, the area shall increase. In certain cases, the area must increase, and when the area increases, it becomes so unmanageable and unwieldy that it becomes very difficult for the Member to go round and meet the people even once in five years. Therefore, we should take care to see that we do not make these constituencies so unwieldy and so unmanageable that we might lose contact with them. It is no ground to say that because already we are not keeping in close touch that side is to be neglected.

The reasons that Mrs. Renu Chakravartty has given appeared to me to be sound ones, and if, for the present, there is no difficulty at all and the adjustment can be made within the framework of the maximum number that we have got, we should not hesitate to adopt that method.

With these few words, I oppose the Bill and consider that there is no necessity at least for the present for this Parliament to enact such an amending law.

चौ० रणबीर सिंह (रोहतक) : सभापति महोदय, मैं सिलैक्ट कमेटी की रिपोर्ट का समर्थन करने के लिये खड़ा हुआ हूं। मैं यह मानता हूं, जैसा कि सरदार हुक्म सिंह जी ने कहा, कि हमें यह सोचना चाहिये कि क्या हम अपने विधान में तबदीली किये बग़ैर अपना काम चला सकते हैं या नहीं। अगर हमारा काम चल सकता है तो हमें यह कोशिश नहीं करनी चाहिये कि हम अभी इस को बदलें। लेकिन जैसा उन्होंने कहा बात वैसी नहीं है कि विधान में तबदीली किये बग़ैर हम अपना काम चला सकेंगे। इस के सबूत में मैं उन्हें कुछ बातें याद दिलाना चाहता हूं। सभापति जी

[चौ० रणबीर सिंह]

आप भी और मैं भी और सरदार हुक्म सिंह जी भी और कई एक और दूसरे लोग पंजाब डिलिमिटेशन कमेटी (Punjab Delimitation Committee) के मेम्बर थे। मैं उन को याद दिलाना चाहता हूं कि यह कोई तहसील के हुदूद को क़ायम रखने का सवाल नहीं हैं। जब आप पार्लियामेंट का हल्क़ा बनाते हैं तो आप के सामने यह सवाल उठता है कि आप के सूबे में या आप को स्टेट में कुल कितनी सीटें हैं और फिर पार्लियामट की कितनी सीटें हैं और स्टेट की कितनी सीटें हैं और पार्लियामेंट की एक सीट के अन्दर स्टेट की कितनी सीटें आनी चाहियें। आम तौर पर पंजाब में स्टेट की सात सीटें पार्लियामेंट की एक सीट के अन्दर आती थीं तो जहां स्टेट की सात सीटें होती थीं वहां पार्लियामेंट की एक सीट होती थी। अब इस से आगे एक सवाल और है। जब स्टेट की सीटें मुक़र्रर करते हैं तो उस में भी कुछ आबादी का इख़्तिलाफ़ होता है और यह ज़रूरी है। वह इस लिये नहीं होता कि हमें किसी तहसील को पूरा रखना है। पंजाब में एक छोटी सी चीज़ होती है जिसे ज़ैल कहते हैं। तो जब हम पंजाब में हल्क़ाबन्दी कर रहे थे तो हम यह चाहते थे कि ज़ैल को तोड़ा न जाय। दस या बारह गांव मिल कर एक ज़ैल बनता है। हमारी यह कोशिश थी कि हम किसी ज़ैल को न तोड़ें, लेकिन फिर भी हमें दो एक ज़ैल तोड़ने पड़े थे। तो यह तो तहसील की बातें कहते हैं। मैं तो ज़ैल की बात कहता हूं। तो जब हमारे सामने यह मसला होता है कि हम ज़ैल को न तोड़ें तो उस में भी मुश्किलात आती हैं और वह भी तब जब कि जालन्धर की डबल सीट को सिंगिल किया गया था। तो जब एक हल्क़ा बनाते हैं तो वह आबादी के हिसाब से बढ़ जाता है। अगर किसी स्टेट में सात हल्क़े बनाने हैं, तो यह नहीं हो सकता कि की मर्ज़ी आवे वैसे हल्क़े बना दिये जायें। उस में यह ख़्याल रखना पड़ता है कि एरिया (area) कांटीम्युअस (contiguous) हो। नक्शे को देखने से आप को यह मालूम होगा कि उस वक्त जल्दी में कुछ गलती हो गई थी जिस को बाद में इलेक्शन कमीशन को तबदील करना पड़ा था। यह तो जब की बातें हैं। आज तो हमारी आबादी और भी बढ़ी है। अगर आप का यह ख़्याल हो कि साढ़े सात लाख में अगर एक सीट बनती है तो हम पांच सौ सीटों को डिलिमिट कर सकेंगे, तो यह ख़्याल ग़लत है। पचास हज़ार की आबादी का आप को फ़र्क करना होगा और इस के बग़ैर आप हल्केबन्दी नहीं कर सकते हैं। काग़ज़ी तौर पर आप जो चाहें कर सकते हैं मगर अमली तौर पर यह मुमकिन नहीं ह। हो सकता है कि काग़ज़ी तौर पर हिसाब के नाते शायद हम यह मान लें कि हमें विधान में तबदीली नहीं करनी चाहिये लेकिन जब अमली तौर पर आप को हल्क़ाबन्दी करनी होगी तो आप इस को नामुमकिन पायेंगे। इसलिये विधान के अन्दर तबदीली होना ज़रूरी है। अब सवाल यह है कि विधान की क्या तबदीली की जाय। मेरे एक कम्युनिस्ट भाई ने कहा कि यह डिमोक्रेटिक (Democratic) नहीं है, यह तो राय के हक के ऊपर छापा मारना है। मैं उन से पूछता हूं कि वह बतायें कि एक हल्क़े में जैसा कि वह आज है और उस में साढ़े सात लाख की आबादी है, तब तो राय का हक़ पूरा समझा जाता है और अगर आठ लाख हो जायेगा तो उन की राय का हक़ छिन जायेगा। यह उन की कौन सी दलील है कि इस तरह से उन की राय का हक़ छिन जाता है ? जहां तक डिमाक्रेसी का ताल्लुक़ है, मैं उन से पूछना चाहता हूं कि क्या अगर

एक हल्क़ा साढ़े सात लाख का रहेगा तो वह डिमाक्रेटिक रहेगा और अगर आठ लाख का हो जायेगा तो क्या अनडिमाक्रेटिक हो जायेगा । वह कहते हैं कि ५०० क्यों सैक्रोसेंक्ट हो । मैं पूछता हूं कि साढ़े सात को आप क्यों सैक्रोसेंक्ट मानते हैं । आप इस की कोई वजह बतलाइये । अगर आप के लिये ५०० सैक्रोसेंक्ट नहीं है तो साढ़े सात किसी दूसरे के लिये कैसे सैक्रोसेंक्ट हो सकता है ? दूसरे भाई ने ज़िक्र किया कि हल्क़ा बहुत बड़ा हो जायेगा और उन्होंने इंगलड की मिसाल दी । वह भूल जाते हैं कि इंगलैंड में यूनीटरी (unitary) फ़ार्म की गवर्नमेंट है, वहां सिर्फ एक पार्लियामेंट है । हिन्दुस्तान में फ़ैडेरेशन (Federation) है, एक यूनियन (Union) है । स्टेट्स के अन्दर अलाहिदा अलाहिदा अपनी अपनी असेम्बलियां हैं । शायद वह यह भूल जाते हैं कि इस पार्लियामेंट में आम आदमी की बात करने का तो उन्हें कोई अधिकार ही नहीं है । आप ज़मीन के बारे में अपनी ज़बान से कोई बात नहीं कह सकते हैं, आप ज़मीन के बारे में यहां कोई कानून नहीं बना सकते हैं, आप सेहत के मुताल्लिक़ न कोई कायदा कानून बना सकते हैं न किसी में हेर फेर कर सकते हैं, और भी बहुत सारी चीज़ें हैं जिन का कि आम आदमी से वास्ता है लेकिन उन के लिये आप यहां क़ानून नहीं बना सकते, उन चीजों के लिये कानून बनाने का अधिकार इस हाउस को नहीं है । इमरजेंसी (emergency) के हालात में शायद कोई ऐसा अधिकार इस हाउस को पहुंचता हो लेकिन जब कि तमाम देश में पार्लियामेंटरी सिस्टम काम करता हो उस वक्त कोई अधिकार नहीं है । उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि विलायत की काउंटीज (Counties) का जो तरीक़ा है वह यहां की म्युनिसिपैलिटीज से मुख्तलिफ़ है । वह यह भूल जाते हैं कि आज यह कोशिश की जा रही है कि, म्युनिसिपैलिटी तो बहुत बड़ी चीज़ है, एक छोटे गांव में, जहां कि पांच सौ से ज़्यादा आबादी है, वहां पर एक पंचायत कायम की जाये और बहुत जगहों पर पंचायतें कायम हो भी चुकी हैं । पंचायत का हक़ कोई छोटा हक़ नहीं है । पंचायत को यह भी हक़ है कि वह कोई नया कर भी लगा सकती है । यह मैं पूरे कानूनी ढंग से तो नहीं कह सकता कि उन्हें किसी कानून में हेर फेर करने का अधिकार है, या क़ानून बनाने की इजाज़त है, लेकिन मैं यह कह सकता हूं कि प्रैक्टिकली उन को खासा अख्तियार है कि वह गांव के जीवन में तबदीली कर सकते हैं । इसे एक तरह का क़ानूनी अधिकार भी कह सकते हैं । वह चाहे तो एक गली को चौड़ा कर सकती है और पंचायत का फैसला एक बने हुए मकान को गिरवा सकता है । यह कोई छोटी बातें नहीं हैं । अपने कांस्टीट्यूशनल (Constitutional) ढंग से आप भले ही कह दें कि उन्हें कोई लेजिस्लेटिव पावर (Legislative Power) नहीं है । लेकिन मैं पूछता हूं कि नाम आप कुछ भी रख दीजिये, लैजिस्लेटिव रख दीजिये या ऐडमिनिस्ट्रेटिव पावर (Administrative Power) रख दीजिये ज़रा अन्दाज़ा तो लगाइये कि वह ताकत कितनी बड़ी है । तो जो भाई यह ख्याल करते हैं कि यह डेमोक्रेसी के खिलाफ़ है तो ऐसी बात नहीं है । डिमोक्रेसी में इस से कोई फ़र्क़ नहीं पड़ता कि साढ़े सात लाख पर या आठ लाख पर एक नुमायन्दा आता है । और दूसरे हिन्दुस्तान में पार्लियामेंटरी सिस्टम का यही एक हाउस नहीं है, और भी बहुत सारे हाउसेज हैं, जैसे पंचायतें, म्युनिसिपल बोर्ड, डस्ट्रिक्ट बोर्ड और स्टेट्स । जैसा कि

[चौ० रणवीर सिह]

में ने पहले कहा यहां पर तो हमें सिर्फ रेल, फौज या डाकखाने के बारे में अख्तियार है, इन तीन के अलावा थोड़ा बहुत कानकरेंट (concurrent) अख्तियार है जिस से आम आदमी को कोई बहुत बड़ा वास्ता नहीं है । हिन्दुस्तान ऐसा देश है कि जिस में बहुत सारे ऐसे आदमी होंगे जो अभी तक रेलगाड़ी में नहीं बैठे होंगे, बहुत से ऐसे होंगे जिन्होंने आज तक कोई चिटठी नहीं लिखी होगी ।

बाक़ी जो आप का अख्तियार है उससे तो उसका कोई वास्ता ही नहीं है । फिर बात ही कैसी है । यह बात तो यह मानते हैं कि साढ़े सात लाख का नुमायन्दा अगर यहां पर पार्लियामेंट में रहेगा तब तो डिमाक्रेसी रहेगी और इस से ज़्यादा तादाद हो गई, दस लाख हो गई, या आठ लाख हो गई, तो वह अनडिमाक्रेटिक होगा । इस दलील में कुछ नहीं रखा है ।

इस के अलावा कुछ भाइयों ने कई एक बातें और कहीं । मैं उन में नहीं जाना चाहता, क्योंकि यह लाज़मी भी नहीं है । लेकिन उन्होंने श्री गाडगिल का जवाब देते हुए यह कहा कि यह तो हाउस प्लानिंग (House Planning) का सवाल है, फैमिली प्लानिंग (Family planning) का नहीं । उन्होंने श्री गाडगिल की बात पर जो यह कहा तो यह उन के दिमाग़ी रुझान को दिखाता है । मैं उन्हें बताना चाहता हूं कि यह दिमाग़ी रुझान का सवाल नहीं है, बल्कि एक अमली सवाल है और जिस देश को वह ध्यान में रखते हैं उस देश की आबादी इस देश से आधी है । उस देश का रक़बा इस देश से ४ गुना है । जिस वक़्त जितनी हमारी आबादी है और जितना हमारा रक़बा है उस के मुताबिक़ वहां सैचुरेशन (saturation) आवेगा, तब वहां पापुलेशन (population) की क्या थ्योरी (theory) बनेगी, यह आगे का ज़माना बतायेगा । यह कहना और आज इस के अन्दर फैमिली प्लानिंग का जो नाम लेते हैं तो वह तो एक पिछड़े ख्याल और घटिया ख्याल का दिमाग़ है यह ठीक नहीं है । यह सवाल कुछ हद तक रूस के लिये और अमरीका के लिये ठीक हो सकता है । वहां बहुत ज़्यादा ज़मीन है । अब इस बात पर मैं आप की मुस्कराहट को देख कर बहुत ज़्यादा नहीं कहना चाहता । मैं जानता हूं कि इस का इस बिल से कोई बहुत बड़ा वास्ता भी नहीं है । लेकिन यह मैं ने इस लिये कहा कि यह जो हम विधान में तबदीली करने जा रहे हैं उस को ठीक ठीक दिखाने के बजाय हमारे ऊपर दूसरे क़िस्म के इल्ज़ाम लगाये जाते हैं । मैं चाहता हूं कि वे ठीक तौर पर इस को समझें और यह मानें कि यह सवाल साफ़ है और एक छोटा सा सवाल है । और वह यह है कि यह तबदीली हम को करनी ही पड़ेगी, उस के लिये कोई चारा नहीं है । या तो मेम्बरों की तादाद बढ़ावें या एक हल्के में वोटरों की तादाद बढ़ावें । इन दोनों में से कोई चीज़ करनी है । तो न तो इस में डिमाक्रेसी की बहुत बड़ी फेर बदल का सवाल आता है और न बहुत बड़ी कोई थ्योरीज़ का सवाल आता है । जिन हालात में हमारा देश है उन को देखते हुए जो सच बात है वह कहे बग़ैर मैं नहीं रह सकता । मैं भी पहले हाउस का एक मेम्बर था । आम तौर पर उस हाउस में ३०० के क़रीब मेम्बर थे । आज इस हाउस के और दूसरे हाउस के मिल कर ७५० के क़रीब मेम्बर हैं, यानी आज का खर्चा पहले के मुक़ाबले दुगुने से भी ज़्यादा है । यह हमारा ग़रीब देश है । यहां किसी नाम से, डिमाक्रेसी के नाम से, दुहाई दे कर इस देश को लटा नहीं

जा सकता । इस देश में हमें सब से पहले जो सोचना होगा वह यह सोचना होगा कि किस ढंग से हम इस देश का खर्चा कम कर सकें, क्योंकि खर्चा हम बढ़ावेंगे तो टैक्स भी बढ़ाना होगा । जब टैक्स बढ़ाया जायेगा तो जो भाई आज डिमाक्रेसी की दुहाई देते हैं वह कहेंगे कि यह बहुत बुरी बात है । मैं कहता हूं कि आप अपने सोचने का ढंग एक रखिये, और वह एक ढंग यही हो सकता है कि जिस से देश की भलाई हो ।

जैसा मैं ने आप से कहा, और कई एक दोस्तों ने कहा, जिस वक़्त इस हाउस में ३०० मेम्बर होते थे, उस वक़्त हर एक भाई को तक़रीर में अपने हल्के की बातें दिखाने का मौका मिलता था। उसे मौका मिलता था अपने ख्यालात के ज़ाहिर करने का । यहां जब ७५० भाई हैं तो इस से बहुत मुश्किल हो गई है और पांच साल के बाद जब वे जावेंगे और कोई भाई पूछेगा कि आप ने पांच साल में क्या कुछ कहा या क्या कुछ किया तो शायद पल्ले कुछ भी नहीं पड़ेगा ।

सरदार हुक्म सिंह : आप के तो पड़ गया ।

चौ० रणवीर सिंह : सरदार साहब ने मेरा ज़िक्र किया । मैं नहीं चाहता, लेकिन एक बात कहूंगा कि पहले वाले काग़ज़ और अब के काग़ज़ संभाले जायें और उन दोनों का मुक़ाबला किया जाय तो मेरे ख्याल से वह पहले के मुक़ाबले अब दसवां हिस्सा भी नहीं पावेंगे और पंद्रहवां भी कहा जाय तो मुझे कोई ताज्जुब नहीं होगा । पहले कोई दिन शायद नहीं जाता था जिस दिन कि हाउस में सरदार साहब नहीं बोलते थे और अपने ख्यालात को ज़ाहिर नहीं करते थे । मैं तो अपनी कई मजबूरियों की बिना पर नहीं बोल पाता था । हमारी पार्टी बहुत ज्यादा हो गई उस में हर एक आदमी को मौक़ा देने का भी ख्याल होता है । उस वजह से शायद मेरा नम्बर न आये । लेकिन सरदार साहब तो सिर्फ़ तीन आदमी अपनी पार्टी के हैं, जिन्हें हमारे देहात में तीन काने कहते हैं । यह तो तीन काने हैं । उन तीनों में से उन को जितना पहले मौक़ा मिलता था, अपने ख्यालात को ज़ाहिर करने का, अपनी पार्टी के ख्यालात को ज़ाहिर करने का, वह मिल जाय । इस के अलावा एक और बात भी है । यह जो दूसरी तरफ़ के भाई बैठे हैं, जो ३५ के क़रीब हैं, वे भी हल्क़े की बड़ी बड़ी बातें करते हैं ।

सरदार हुक्म सिंह : पता नहीं इन्होंने तीन कैसे कर दिया । शायद सिर्फ़ तीन काने कहने का शौक था, इसलिये कर दिया । हम चार बैठे हुए हैं ।

चौ० रणवीर सिंह : मुझे अफ़सोस है कि मेरी गिनती ग़लत थी ।

सरदार हुक्म सिंह : वह तो बहुत बड़ी ग़लती हो गई ।

चौ० रणवीर सिंह : दूसरे भाई कहते हैं कि साहब हम अपने हल्क़े की बातें नहीं कह सकते हैं । उन्हें नहीं मालूम कि आज वह इस हाउस में ३२ या ३५ नुमाइन्दे, मैं ठीक नहीं कह सकता कि कितने हैं, जो हैं उन को हमारे स्पीकर साहब, जैसा कि पार्लियामेंटरी सिस्टम (Parliamentary System) में होना चाहिये, उन्हें अपने ख्यालात को ज़्यादा रखने देते हैं । इसलिये वह अपने हल्के की बात कह सकते हैं । अगर कभी हमारे जैसी हालत में आवें तो पता लगेगा कि वह हाउस में अपने हल्क़े की बात कह भी सकते हैं या नहीं ।

[**चौ० रणबीर सिंह**]

जिस वक़्त हम ने विधान बनाया था उस वक़्त हमारे ख्याल में भी नहीं था कि इस प्रकार की हालत पैदा हो जायेगी । वरना शायद हम सोचते और जैसे ३०० मेम्बर पहले थे वैसे ही रहना पसन्द करते । उस वक़्त हमने सोचा कि १० लाख बहुत बड़ा नम्बर है, वरना पहले १० लाख पर ही एक नुमाइन्दा भेजने का ख्याल था । लेकिन उस वक़्त इस चीज का अन्दाजा नहीं लगाया गया ।

सरदार साहब ने कहा कि मेरा जो हल्क़ा है वह तीन जिलों का है । मैं कहता हूं कि वह भूल गये या उन्होंने और को छिपाया । वह अपने आप को अकेला क्यों मानते हैं । उस हल्क़े में से अव्वल तो दो मेम्बर हैं । और दूसरी बात यह है कि पैप्सू के कुल पांच मेम्बर आते हैं । इस के माने हैं कि पैप्सू की असेम्बली से, जिस के अन्दर कुल ६० मेम्बर हैं, दो मेम्बर आते हैं । इस हिसाब से शायद एक मेम्बर के पीछे २८ मेम्बर बैठेंगे । शायद मेरी गिनती ठीक न हो, क्योंकि मैं देहाती आदमी हूं ।

सरदार हुकम सिंह : गिनती मैं कर देखा हूं । २४ थे ।

चौ० रणबीर सिंह : और, सरदार साहब कहते हैं कि २४ मेम्बर थे । तो मैं उन से कहता हूं कि उस हल्क़े का नुमायन्दा बन आने की ठेकेदारी आप ने क्यों मान ली । उस हल्क़े की ठेकेदारी तो २० आदमियों पर है । तो फिर उन्हें इस बात की फ़िक्र क्यों है, उन की जेब से कोई चीज नहीं गई । अगर उन की पार्टी जीत सकती थी तो और जिलों में भी उन की जीत हो सकती थी । तो मैं तो इस वास्ते यह मानता हूं . . . . . .

सरदार हुकम सिंह : सदर साहब फिर मुस्करा रहे हैं ।

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member has taken too long. I think he is repeating his arguments. The Bill must be put through before 5 o'clock.

चौ० रणबीर सिंह : मैं तो यह मानता हूं कि यह हल्क़े बड़े होने का ख्याल है, यह ग़लत ख्याल है, बल्कि सही बात तो यह है और मैं तो इस ख्याल का भी हूं और जैसे हालात हैं और जैसी बातें हम देखते हैं, और जैसे यह इलैक्शन (election) हम लड़ कर आये और साढ़े सात लाख आदमियों से वास्ता पड़ा, अब कोई तो आदमी कहता है कि मेरी जमीन ठीक ढंग से इकट्ठा नहीं हुई, उस के बारे में न तो हमें, न हमारे वजीर को और न इस हाउस को अख्तियार है कि वह इस बारे में डिप्टी कमिश्नर से कोई सवाल कर सके ।

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Minister has to reply and the Bill has to be put through.

चौ० रणबीर सिंह : साहबे सदर, मैं उस से पहले ही खत्म करने वाला हूं ।

Shri N. B. Chowdhury (Ghatal): On a point of order, Sir. I see under article 368 of the Constitution, in order to amend the Constitution, it is necessary to have a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting and also a majority of the total membership. So how can this be passed now? (*Interruption*).

Mr. Chairman: That time has not arrived. The Act can be passed by the majority as given in the Constitution. But this is not the time yet.

चौ० रणबीर सिंह : साहबे सदर, यह बिल अभी पास नहीं हो रहा है, वह

तो जब राय ली जायगी तब जरूरत होगी, इस वक़्त इस पर राय लेने का कोई सवाल नहीं आया है ।

Shri Pataskar (Jalgaon): The hon. Minister has not moved for the Bill being passed.

Mr. Chairman: Yes.

Sardar Hukam Singh: I might remind Government that last time when we took up amendment of the Constitution, at every stage that majority was adhered to. I do not know whether that is going to be the case this time.

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): There need not be that majority when every speech is delivered in the House.

Shri Biswas: Was that followed, that at every stage there must be that majority?

Sardar Hukam Singh: 'Stage' only means the consideration stage and second and third reading. I thought that was the ordinary connotation of the term 'stage' and not the stage of the speech of every Member.

Shri Feroze Gandhi (Pratapgarh Distt.—West *cum* Rae Bareli Distt.—East): There are still more than two-thirds.

Shri S. S. More (Sholapur): You carry on.

चौ० रणबीर सिंह : सभापति महोदय, जैसे आप ने कहा कि मैं कुछ चीजों को दुहरा रहा था, तो मेरा निवेदन यह है कि मैं कोई चीज दुहरा नहीं रहा था और इस के पहले मैं ने कंसालिडेशन आफ़ होल्डिंग्स (Consolidation of Holdings) का जिक्र नहीं किया था ।

दूसरी चीज सिंचाई का सवाल है किसी की नहर की मोरी जिसे अंग्रेजी में, आउटलेट (outlet) कहते हैं उस के कम होने का सवाल है या ग़लत होने का सवाल है और दूसरी कई बातें हैं जिन से वास्ता पड़ता है । यहां मैं उन का नुमाइन्दा तो बन कर आया हूं और मुझे लैजिसलेटिव ढंग से कोई अख्तियार नहीं कि मैं उन की कुछ बात कह सकूं, तो मैं यह बातें कह रहा था, और वह इसलिये कि उस वक्त हम ने यह ख्याल नहीं किया कि दरअस्ल यह जो तीन, चार विषय हमारे पास हैं यानी सेन्टर (Centre) के पास हैं उन के ऐडमिनिस्टर करने के लिये कोई डायरेक्ट रिप्रेजेन्टेटिव हाउस (Direct Representative House) की जरूरत नहीं थी, अगर इनडायरेक्ट (Indirect) होता तो शायद लोगों के लिये भी और आसानी होती और खर्चा भी कम आता । उस वक़्त अगर २५० या ३०० मेम्बर होते तो शायद कोई गिला भी नहीं करता । मैं अब ज्यादा वक़्त नहीं लेना चाहता, सिर्फ़ इतनी बात कह देना चाहता हूं कि जैसा कुछ भाइयों ने कहा कि डेमोक्रेसी की राय के हक़ के ऊपर छापा मारा गया है, तो मुझे तो इस में कोई ऐसी बात नहीं दिखाई देती और उस का इस वक़्त कोई सवाल ही नहीं है । सवाल बिल्कुल सीधा है कि आया नम्बर बढ़ायें या वोटर्स की तादाद बढ़ायें, अगर नम्बर बढ़ाते हैं तो उस से देश के ऊपर फ़ालतू खर्चा आता है, लेकिन अगर हम वोटर्स की तादाद एक हल्क़े में बढ़ाते हैं, तो इस से उस पर कोई भार नहीं पड़ने जा रहा है और यह देश के हित में होगा । क्योंकि हमारा देश एक ग़रीब देश है और यह आवश्यक है कि इस के ऊपर और अधिक खर्च का भार न बढ़े । और बाक़ी जो बातें कही गई हैं उन से इस का कोई बहुत बड़ा वास्ता नहीं है और जैसा मैं ने पहले भी कहा कि विधान में तबदीली किये बिना हमारा काम नहीं चल सकता ह । बस मैं और अधिक न कह कर अपनी बात को समाप्त करता हूं ।

Shri Altekar (North Satara): The Opposition has criticised this Bill on the ground that it is not democratic on our part to represent a very large number of the population. I beg to submit that the quality of democracy is not to be determined by the number of persons a member represents, but by the way in which he represents them and also by the powers that are vested in the legislature where the members are sent by way of representation. So far as the latter question is concerned, this House is sovereign and supreme and all the powers are vested in it, and those who form this House, almost the whole of them, are represented by direct representation; except for a few Members of some community, Anglo-Indians and the like—very very few—all the rest are elected by direct representation. And, therefore, our institution is democratic to the core.

Now the other question, as to the way in which the members are represented, is more important than the mere number which is sent to this House. When a member is sent to a legislature by direct representation, by every voter voting for him directly without any intervention or indirect representation, that is the best type of democracy, and that particular type of democracy we have as a matter of fact established by our Constitution in this country. So the quality of our democracy is the highest and best possible one. Now the question as to how many persons vote a particular member is not of so much great significance. If at all, as a matter of fact, one wants to see that the person who represents should have a direct touch and should be more and more in contact with the people who send him there and that it should be a very sizeable constituency, if that particular idea is to be effective, then it is not by saying that only 7½ lakhs should send a particular member and that if that figure is increased, say, by about 50,000 or so then the quality of our representation suffers.

Shri B. C. Das: We dispute that also.

5 P. M.

Shri Altekar: If at all, as a matter of fact, the remedy is to be had, then possibly we shall have to limit the constituency to one-half or one-third its present size. Then alone we can say that some effective weight has been given to that. In that case, Sir, the position would be that this House would consist—if we reduce the size of the constituency to one-half or one-third—of 1000 or 1500 Members. We can just imagine what would be the position of a House which is constituted of such a large number of Members. So far as representation in this country is concerned, the people are represented by about 4,000 members from the different parts of the country in the State Assemblies or in this Parliament. So, it is not like England that only 615 members are representing the whole country. As a matter of fact, our country is divided into various States; there also there is direct representation and certain powers have been conferred on the States. There the whole administration is being carried on by discussion, by their advice, by their voting, by the will of the representatives that are there. So far as this House is concerned, we are coming here for the purposes of the Central subjects that have been reserved for this House. So far as those subjects are concerned, we are taking a whole and comprehensive view of the country's interests at large. We have to look at these from a different point of view.

Shri V. P. Nayar (Chirayinkil): Time is up, Sir.

Shri Altekar: I would require some fifteen minutes, Sir.

The House then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 10th December, 1952.